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Photographed by Mark Jacob of Studio 100

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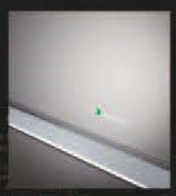
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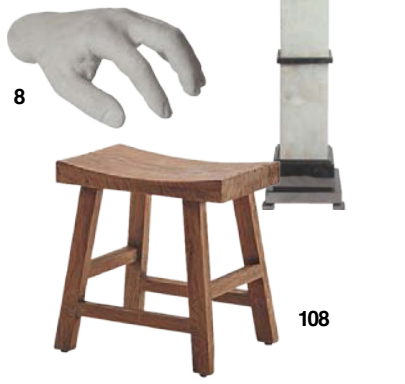
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Change of Scenery

April officially marks the beginning of summer and, for most of us, it is the time when we set off and reward ourselves with a much-needed break from work. I myself have been bitten by the travel bug a long time ago, and thus personally consider traveling as a sort of investment. I get inspired by the things I see and experience, and I am able to translate these into my designs. Travel broadens our minds and is indeed the only thing we buy that makes us richer.

We all have our own definition of a vacation. While some people have the opportunity to build a second home away from the city, others design their homes to make them feel like coming home to an urban oasis. Whether or not budget is a concern, you can create a retreat right in your own home by designing it to be the perfect haven to come home to after a long day. Create the ultimate *staycation* home by choosing elements that remind you of a perfect getaway, where you can relax not just once or twice a year, but every single day.

In this month's issue, let us take you on a mini escape to some of the most beautiful getaway homes in the Philippines. From Manila and Bohol to Cebu and Palawan, we bring you five spectacular dwellings, including a modern glass house atop a hill in Bohol and the most breathtaking hideaway in Palawan that Robinson Crusoe would approve of. We have so many unforgettable moments while traveling by land, air, and sea—the last giving us an opportunity to witness whale sharks swimming alongside our speedboat, as though navigating us as we journey to our next destination. I must say that we had such an amazing experience working on this issue.

We also take you on an express tour around the globe via table settings in our Entertaining section. Moreover, this issue contains practical styling tips and advice on how to care for indoor plants, as well as a roundup of the best daybeds and outdoor furniture to lounge in this season.

No matter how you choose to spend your vacation—maybe traveling somewhere new and exotic or dozing off at the beach—we hope that you enjoy the best of your holiday wherever you spend it in.

Nix Alañon
Editor-in-Chief

NIX PICKS

1. Cabinet, available at JB Woodcraft

2. *Louis* lamp x chair, available at Studio Vito Selma

3. *Manila National Museum* model by Chisel and Mouse, available at Studio Dimensione

4. *Romblon* nesting table, available at Triboa Bay Living

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2

3

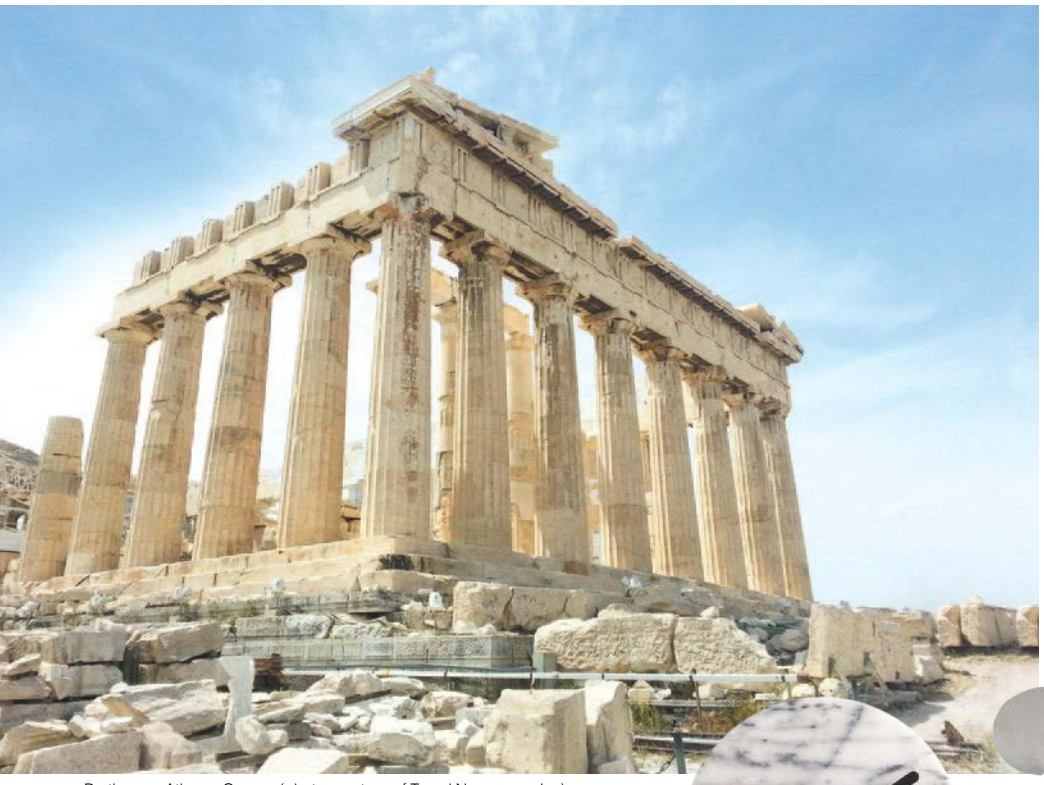


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Parthenon, Athens, Greece (photo courtesy of Travel Now magazine)



Table lamp, price available upon request at The Pietro Collection



Stone hand, P6,526.25, available at Studio Dimensione



White marble clock, price available upon request at Crate and Barrel



Stone cake stand set, P13,589, available at Studio Dimensione



Vessels, P214 each, available at Studio Dimensione



Gray round ribbed planter, P8,995, available at Studio Dimensione



***Lugano* vases,** price available upon request at Roche Bobois



***Cassiope* candle holders,** price available upon request at Roche Bobois

Beautifully Raw

Added character roots from a touch of unfinished materials

Produced by **Aisne Trinidad**
Photographed by **Mark Jacob and Trish Zamora of Studio 100, Greg Mayo**

Stone finish accessories best fit in a modern minimalist setting, where texture is given more importance over other design elements. Often associated with neutrals, this particular type of home décor is considered more versatile—both blending in understated yet elegant interiors and standing out in color- or pattern-infused setups. While stone finish accessories fall under a clean aesthetic, their raw finish reveals an unspoken story as to how they came to be.

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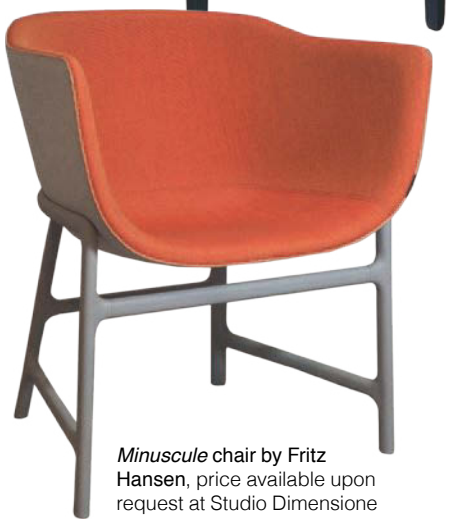
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New York City, USA (photo courtesy of Travel Now magazine)



Side table by Jan Christian Delfs, price available upon request at MOs Design



***Minuscule* chair by Fritz Hansen**, price available upon request at Studio Dimensione



Side table, price available upon request at Minotti

Unexpected Combinations

The ingenious use of mixed materials makes for a daring ambiance

Furniture pieces that incorporate a variety of materials like wood, plastic, concrete, and steel commonly define industrial design, in which the flexibility of each medium used is highlighted. For these to go well with existing spaces, choose a material already present in your home and anchor your accent pieces on it. A room dominated by large mirrors can make good use of steel side tables, while a wooden dining table can be paired with plastic chairs in a vibrant hue.



Coat Stand, P6,995, available at Studio Dimensione

***Peninsula* occasional table by Angie Anakis**, price available upon request at MOs Design





***Have a Seat* stool**, P9,598, available at Studio Dimensione



Table lamp, price available upon request at The Pietro Collection



***Pom Pom* table lamp**, price available upon request at Calligaris



Tissue holder, P1,150, available at Studio Dimensione

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San Gimignano, Siena, Tuscany (foodandwinetravel.com.au)



Copper shade pendant lights by Tom Dixon, price available upon request at MOs Design



Amber *Victoria* chair, P8,995, available at Studio Dimensione



Copper lamp, P21,950, available at Studio Dimensione



Jar vase, P795, price available upon request at Minotti

***Bouche* table light,** price available upon request at Studio Dimensione



Pebble stool and side table, P117,800, available at Studio Dimensione



Vase, price available upon request at Bo Concept



***Polka* teacup and saucer set,** P7,000, available at Studio Dimensione



Sunny Amber

Browns and yellows exude subdued radiance

Amber accents impart the same comforting feeling of looking into the horizon and seeing the warm colors of the sun as it sets. Furnishings in this hue are becoming more popular nowadays, as they introduce depth and convey a rustic design style. Because amber pieces naturally stand out, put them in areas where guests usually gather to offer a welcoming ambiance.

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American Standard

American Standard, a renowned sanitary brand under the LIXIL group of companies, is proud to organize the first American Standard Design Award among Universities across 4 countries: Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The American Standard Design Award Asia Pacific 2015 challenges the creativity and ingenuity of young inspiring design students to come up with sanitary product designs and bathroom space concepts. This is the first design competition by American Standard and is a platform that will showcase the best talents among the young design community.

Students will gain regional exposure through this inter-country competition. Finalists will be presented with cash prizes and round-trip tickets to Singapore for an award ceremony showcasing their work. Three grand prize winners stand a chance to walk away with USD 5000 each and winning concepts will also be considered in upcoming American Standard collections.

CATEGORIES

CATEGORY 1
BATHROOM SPACE DESIGN AWARD

CATEGORY 2
PRODUCT CONCEPT DESIGN AWARD - VC (TOILET)

CATEGORY 3
PRODUCT CONCEPT DESIGN AWARD - FITTINGS (FAUCET)

TIMELINE

2 FEB 2015	ENTRY SUBMISSIONS
30 APRIL 2015	DEADLINE FOR ENTRY SUBMISSIONS
1-15 MAY 2015	JUDGING (ROUND 1)
29 MAY 2015	ANNOUNCEMENT OF ROUND 1 FINALISTS
1-12 JUNE 2015	SUBMISSION OF VIDEOS FOR BATHROOM SPACE DESIGN ROUND 1 FINALISTS
19 JUNE 2015	JUDGING (ROUND 2) + ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS @ AWARD CEREMONY IN SG

PRIZES

- Round 1 finalists will each receive a cash prize of USD2000.
- Finalists from each category will be flown to Singapore for the Award Ceremony.
- Grand Winner for each Category will each receive a cash prize of USD5000.

ELIGIBILITY

- Candidates must be studying students of your university in these countries (Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia)
- Participants can only submit as an individual
- Only 1 submission per candidate per category, but candidate can participate in more than 1 category
- Any form of plagiarism will void the entries
- All submitted entries will automatically be intellectual properties of LIXIL International Pte Ltd
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Submit your entries on
www.ASdesignaward.com

Siesta Time

Invest in a multipurpose daybed to lounge around in style

Produced by **Aisne Trinidad** | *Photos courtesy of* **Kenneth Cobonpue and Locsin**

An afternoon nap is never the same without that one piece of furniture you love lying on, especially during hot summer days. Whether placed in dens, bedrooms, or the outdoors, a daybed is a multifunctional sofa that features extra seating capacity and functions as a secondary bed. It oftentimes serves as the anchor piece due to its size, so make sure to pick the right measurements and choose a design that best suits the area you plan to display it in.



Chopstix Malacca daybed, price available upon request at Locsin



Hagia daybed, price available upon request at Kenneth Cobonpue



Sansa daybed, price available upon request at Locsin



Lolah daybed, price available upon request at Kenneth Cobonpue



Voyage daybed, price available upon request at Kenneth Cobonpue

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Outdoor Outtakes

Anchor your gardens and patios on durable and comfortable furniture pieces

Written by **Aisne Trinidad** | *Photographed by* **Greg Mayo**
Additional photos courtesy of **Kenneth Cobonpue, Locsin, and Obra Cebuana**

In tropical countries like the Philippines, an outdoor space is as essential as any other part of the house. Especially when the weather makes everyday feel like summer, it is likely for families to spend a lot of time in their garden, backyard, or lanai. Such way of living requires investing on well-crafted outdoor furniture that will last longer than expected. Here is a selection of weather-proof and environmentally friendly outdoor pieces to help you gear up for that summer get-together at your place.



Sofie hanging chair,
P51,000, available
at Outdoor + Solutions



Lounge chair,
Price available upon
request at Locsin



Bone stool,
P7,370, available
at Outdoor +
Solutions

Candy chair,
P7,400, available
at Outdoor +
Solutions



Dean chair,
P28,100, available
at Outdoor + Solutions



Joyce lounge,
Price available upon
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Abelia chair,
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Coffee table,
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request at Locsin



Dreamcatcher stool,
price available upon request
at Kenneth Cobonpue



Charisse Saucer,
P25,000, available
at Outdoor + Solutions



Oasis easy armchair,
price available upon request
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Known for their conversation pieces, newly opened Purple Orchid Home is filled with well-curated artisan ornaments, Asian furniture pieces, and accessories like handcrafted table lamps and finely carved cabinets and wood panels. Visit Purple Orchid Home at R2 Level of Archaeology Wing, PowerPlant Mall, Rockwell, Makati. For inquiries, call (02) 425 3641, or follow Purple Orchid Home on Facebook and Instagram (@purpleorchidhome).



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A Touch of Green

Let your green thumb work its wonders as you enliven your home with plants

Written by **Cy Yambao** | *Photographed by* **Mark Jacob of Studio 100**
Styled by **Wendy Regalado**

Placing houseplants in dead corners of your home is one of the age-old tricks that breathe in new life to your living spaces. While it can be a chore to care for indoor plants, especially if you don't have enough time and resources to tend to them, you might want to reconsider as plants give any home much-needed warmth and fresh air. Get ideas from these five styling inspirations from plant enthusiast Wendy Regalado, who also gives tips on how to grow plants better and make them last longer.



A mini pond on your dining table not only encourages conversations, but also serves as a lovely sight while indulging on scrumptious meals. Plant enthusiast Wendy Regalado gathers a number of nymphoides in a small container to highlight the growth of snowflake-like flowers. They fold back into a bud, but open up again the following day.

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They say first impressions last, so it is important that your foyer greets guests with a calming atmosphere. Line your console table with potted plants like petticoat and maidenhair ferns, whose leaves are in different shades of green, and balance them off with taller indoor palm plants on the side. This entire setup is carefully planned to not get in the way of the stained glass window, which likewise serves as an eye-catching welcome accent.



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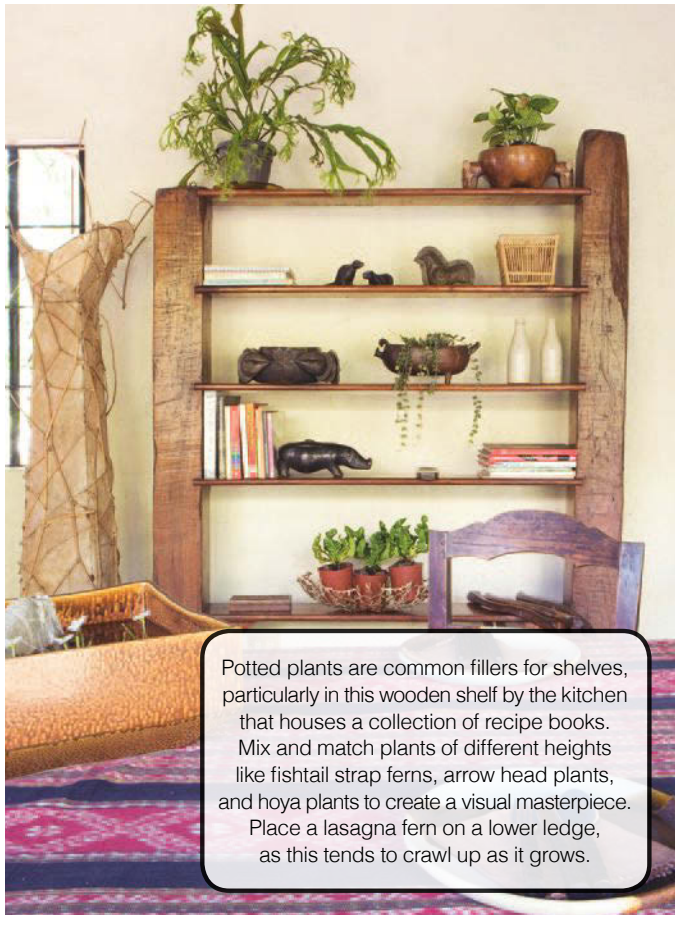
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One of the most interesting house plants is Hoya, which is very adaptable to all kinds of weather and grows well even indoors. Wendy opted to let its leaves grow around an improvised trellis, so that it's much easier to see the flowers once they bloom. Position the Hoya plant right in the middle of your sectional couch to serve as an instant conversation piece.



An antique dresser coupled with an equally old rocking chair is brought to life by the potted Peace Lily plant on the floor. Peace lilies are fairly easy to grow indoors, especially around the summer months when their flowers naturally start to bloom.



Potted plants are common fillers for shelves, particularly in this wooden shelf by the kitchen that houses a collection of recipe books. Mix and match plants of different heights like fishtail strap ferns, arrow head plants, and hoya plants to create a visual masterpiece. Place a lasagna fern on a lower ledge, as this tends to crawl up as it grows.


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Dining Escapes

Dress your outdoor space up with themed table settings that use only one table runner

Written by **Aisne Trinidad** | *Photographed by* **Daryl Ocampo of Studio 100**
Styled by **Kaity Chua and Melissa Orozco of The Wareshop**

Now that summer is officially here, you have all the reason to set up for breakfast or lunch in the comforts of your garden atop a mountain, by the sea, or in a farmland. Prepare to entertain in three outdoor themes using the *Thatcher* Ticking Stripe table runner (P2,450) from Pottery Barn. Its basic color and pattern can definitely go a long way, so bring those well-kept cutleries out and don't let the summer vibe fade.



Bring the beach vibe back! Use ocean-inspired tableware with touches of blue and teal to remind you of carefree coastal living. A blue-striped table runner is a perfect match as it emphasizes the feel of being at sea. Add other elements like pebbles and silver candleholders to convey intimate outdoor dining without losing the table setting's seaside charm.

Shot on location at **Basil,** *White Plains Ave., corner Katipunan Ave., Ugong Norte, Quezon City*

1. **Candle holder,** P149, available at H&M Home | 2. **Sea bed rock glass (set of 3),** P1,350, available at The Wareshop | 3. ***Octavius* cuff,** P799.75, available at L'Indochine
4. **Candle holder,** P149, available at H&M Home | 5. ***Helena* napkin (pear),** P319, available at Crate and Barrel | 6. **Small fish dinner plate,** P550, available at The Wareshop

 Crate and Barrel 4/F Mega Fashion Hall, SM Megamall, EDSA cor. J. Vargas Avenue, Mandaluyong
The Wareshop *Website* thewareshop.com, @thewareshop on Instagram







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Shot on location at ***14 Four Café,*** *Magnolia Lane, Taytay, Rizal*

1. ***Clemin de Table,*** P1,859, available at Crate and Barrel | 2. ***Gotica*** **bottle cork stopper,** P235, available at Gourdo's | 3. **Clear bottle,** P599, available at H&M Home 4. ***Marbury*** **dinner bowl,** P489, available at Crate and Barrel | 5. ***Suits*** **napkin (set),** P1,699, available at Crate and Barrel | 6. ***Marbury*** **dinner plate,** P519, available at Crate and Barrel | 7. **Fiaschetta bottle,** P215, available at Gourdo's

H&M Home G/F SM Makati, Ayala Center corner EDSA, Makati *Phone* (02) 893 1612 *Website* hm.com/ph
Gourdo's 4/L Mega Fashion Hall, SM Megamall, EDSA corner J. Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong

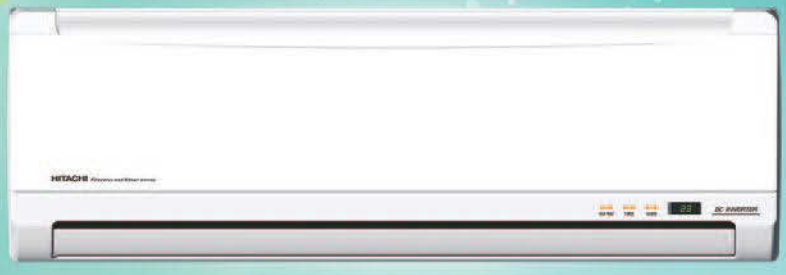
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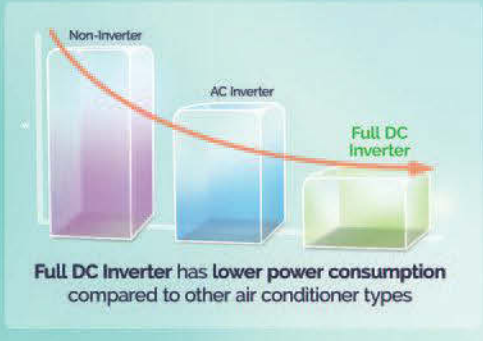
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1. ***Saal*** **taper holder,** P209, available at Crate and Barrel | 2. **Wood house (large),** P679, available at Crate and Barrel | 3. **Wood house (small),** P469, available at Crate and Barrel | 4. **Wooden bird blue,** P1,299.75, available at L'Indochine | 5. **Studio dinner light clay,** P459, available at Crate and Barrel
6. ***Helena*** **napkin (natural),** P319, available at Crate and Barrel

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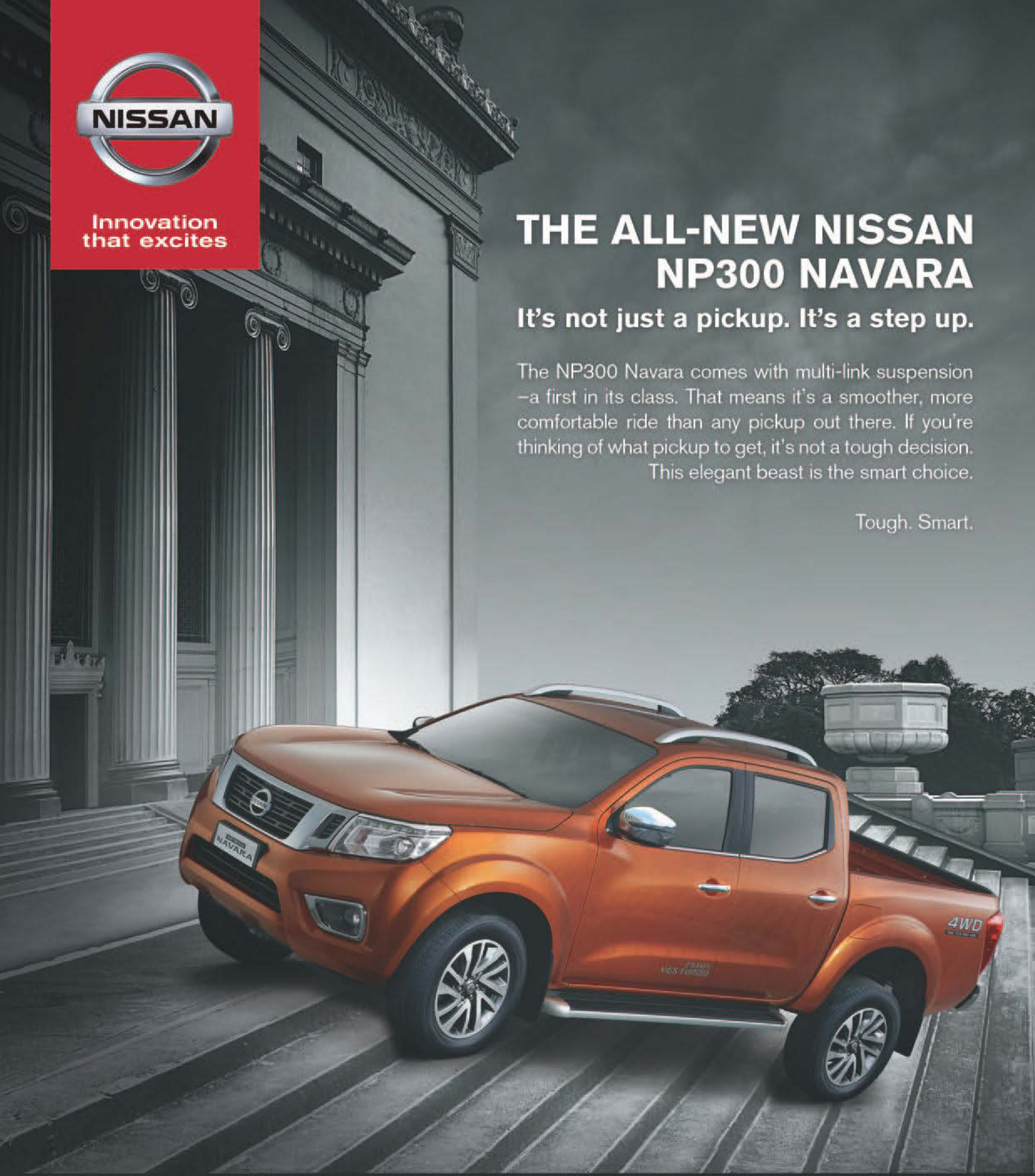
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ON TOP OF THE WORLD

A glass house in Bohol allows for breathtaking views of landscapes and seas

Written by **Love Ocampo**
Photographed by **Mark Jacob of Studio 100 and Chris Ramasola**





This glass house, which was built on a steep slope and whose foundation was anchored on solid rock, took three years and three months to finish. The design took 50 different studies, but owner Wing Bustamante decided on the first one. “One of my favorite architects is Tadao Ando, thus the primary use of steel and concrete,” she says. “I also like Philip Johnson’s Glass House and the open plan layout of Balinese houses, where areas are merged together and divided by levels instead of through walls.” Wing’s home has two main floors and six levels (five on the ground floor and one on the second floor).



The living room is bathed in a neutral color scheme and adorned with accents of wood from the custom-made furniture pieces personally designed by Wing. The use of a light color palette lets the sun's rays pass through the interiors.

When Wing Bustamante was still living in Boracay, she would take in the sun and the sea while enjoying the company of friends. "Boracay used to be great because it was so low-key, but when it started to get too commercialized, we sold our house," she says.

Wing, who is in the interior design business, then found a new home in Bohol. It all began when she was designing a friend's bed and breakfast, a project that required her to explore the different parts of Bohol on weekends. Wing chanced upon a place she loved so much that when she saw the hilltop location in 2009, she made the purchase without hesitation. "I just looked at the magnificent 180-degree view of Bohol Bay, Mindanao Sea, and south-eastern Bohol Island—and knew exactly what to build on it," shares Wing. Four years of flying in and out of Vancouver for her daughter's education has also inspired Wing to pattern her own dwelling to the glass waterfront houses in Cornwall Street.

Bohol proved to be the perfect setting for the house of her dreams. Teaming up with her daughter Abigail, who also studied interior design, made the construction of the house extra special as this was their first collaboration. "We don't have the same taste, but with this house we seemed to be aligned with what we wanted," admits Wing.





Above: The house is cool because of its very high ceilings. The living and dining areas have a ceiling height of 16.5 feet. **Right:** Wing gave this Lladro figurine to her daughter Abigail, who then brought it back from Vancouver to give it a proper home. During the 7.2-magnitude earthquake last year, it didn't fall, so Wing started considering it as her guardian angel that looks over everyone coming to their house.

"This is a vacation home. The kids come over during summer vacation or on long weekends, since they're all grown up now. When I stay here, I feel like I'm always on vacation," shares Wing.







When Wing has guests, she hires a private chef to prepare top-of-the-line meals. A few examples would be a Wagyu burger paired with baked potatoes topped with Spanish chorizo *hubad*, and the classic Eggs Benedict.



"Our favorite spot is the kitchen directly connected to the dining room," reveals Wing. "All areas of the house seem to have merged into one big living area, and I like that all parts are visible." The patio adjacent to the dining room is another favorite place, as this is where they sometimes wine and dine.





The mother-daughter duo proceeded to draft the schematics: a multi-level home with an open floor plan, bare minimum walls, and a mix of doors and windows. Only counters would separate the kitchen from the dining area and the balcony beyond.

White serves as an excellent backdrop. Most of the floors are tiled perfectly, complementing the fabricated furniture Wing designed herself. Panes of glass are installed around the house to offer good views of the garden and the sea outside. The kitchen, which is efficient in its simplicity, features laminated cabinets from Siematic by Focus Global Inc. The use of glass gives the house different shades of light—so beautiful that Wing stays there every two months or when there are guests renting the place. She purposely designed the house to be minimal with an understated elegance, just like a blank palette, so as not to compete with the architecture and the 180-degree vista.

Whenever she's there, Wing makes full use of everything that this hillside retreat has to offer: cooking in the open kitchen, reading a book or painting by the window, and taking a dip in the pool in the afternoon. As dusk draws near, she enjoys the sunset from the balcony, which is truly a sight to behold.

"We have a magnificent sunrise," Wing proudly shares. "It's like looking at God's paintings everyday. Each day is a different painting, and even rainy days are lovely." She adds that full moons are the best, as you can see the moon rise. "At night, when the sea is no longer visible, you can see the lights of Bohol Island beyond," says Wing.





Above: The staircase leads to two bedrooms and bathrooms on the second floor. Even as you walk downstairs, you will still be able to appreciate the view.
Right: Wing likes to design out-of-the-box. “I love big murals, but I hardly have big walls to have them painted on, so I asked the talented Alfred Galvez to place these on bedroom floors and the bathrooms. The murals are in the most unlikely places and they’re amazing!” she narrates. Alfred and his team stayed at the house for two months to finish the murals.





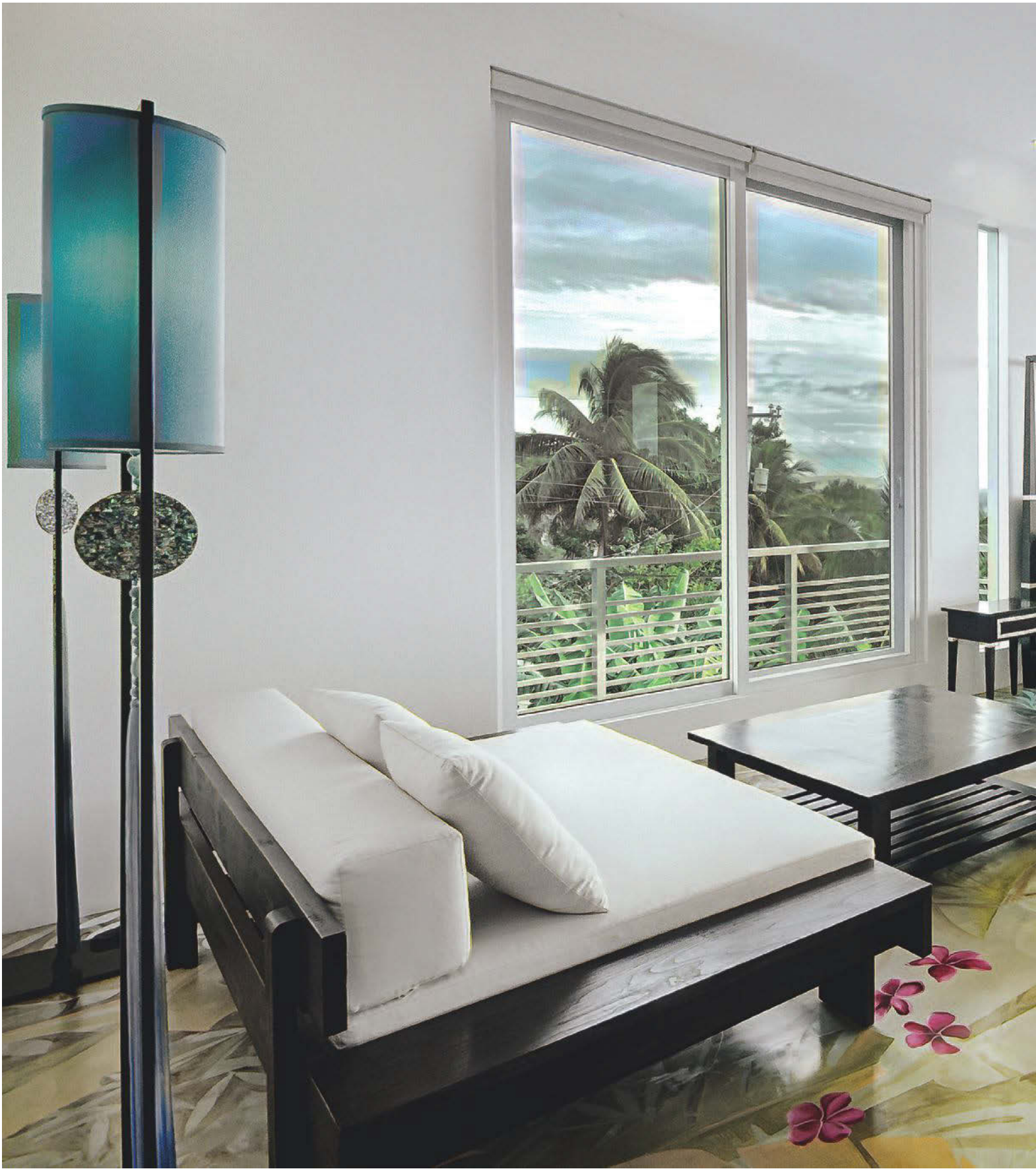


It helps that Wing and her daughter both have a design background that allowed them to identify the layout and features they wanted for each area, particularly the floor covering in the rooms. The daughter decided to have a lotus pond mural in her room, while Wing chose frangipanis for the master bedroom.

"We don't have the same taste, but with this house we seemed to be aligned with what we wanted"



Alfred Galvez's murals extend to the walls of the bathroom.





Unconventional floor patterns grace the bedrooms of this home. The light, neutral color palette is prevalent in all rooms to allow the flooring to stand out. Wing decided to do without curtains or blinds, so she and her guests can appreciate the view without any barriers.



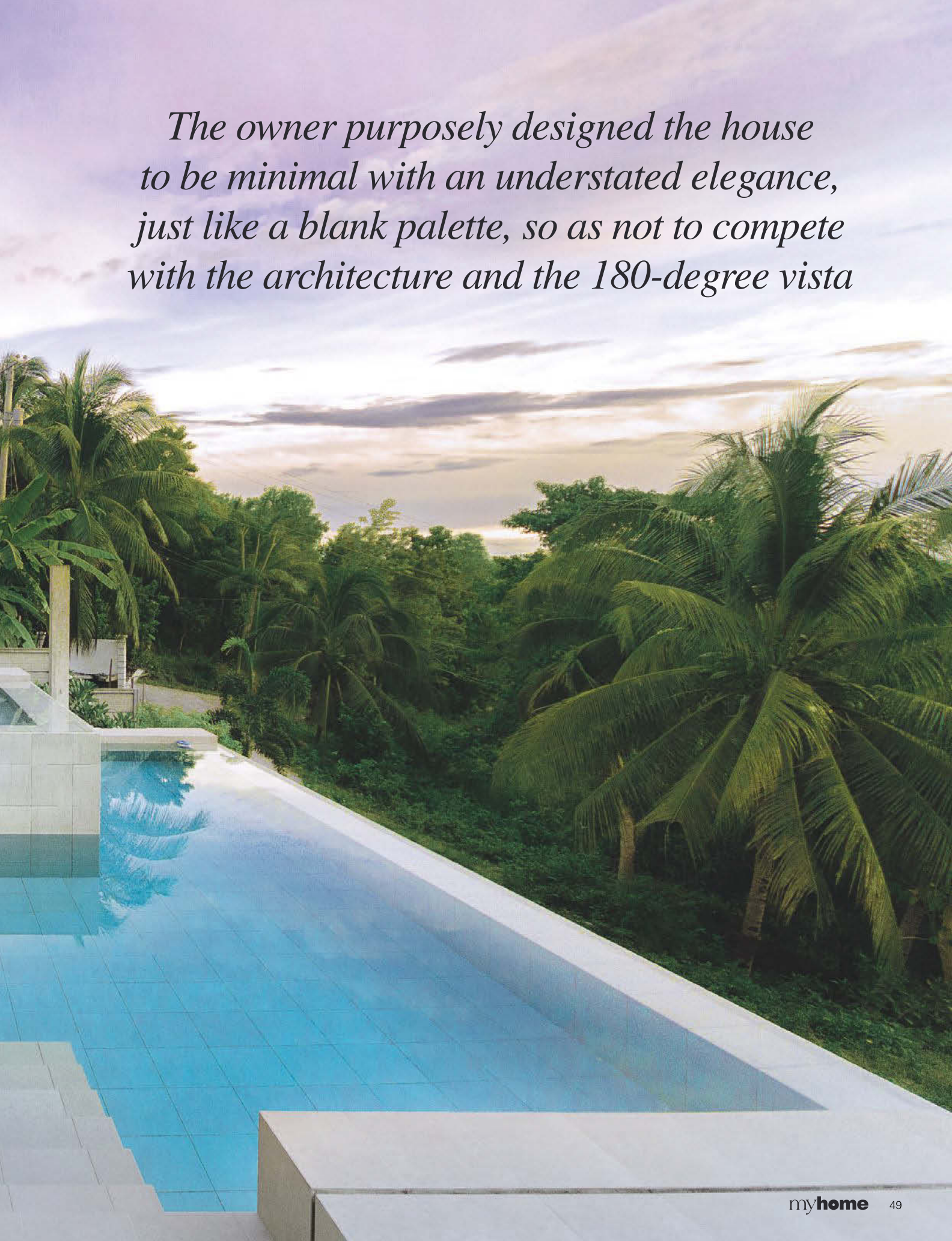
Glass doors and windows surround the house, which has a wonderful view of the pool and the province of Bohol. "Living in a modern house without walls makes you take in all that magnificence," says Wing.



"We can catch the breeze whichever direction it's coming from," shares Wing, pointing to the abundance of doors and windows. "When there's no breeze, we keep the fans on just to circulate air. I think it's cooler than most houses."



The owner purposely designed the house to be minimal with an understated elegance, just like a blank palette, so as not to compete with the architecture and the 180-degree vista



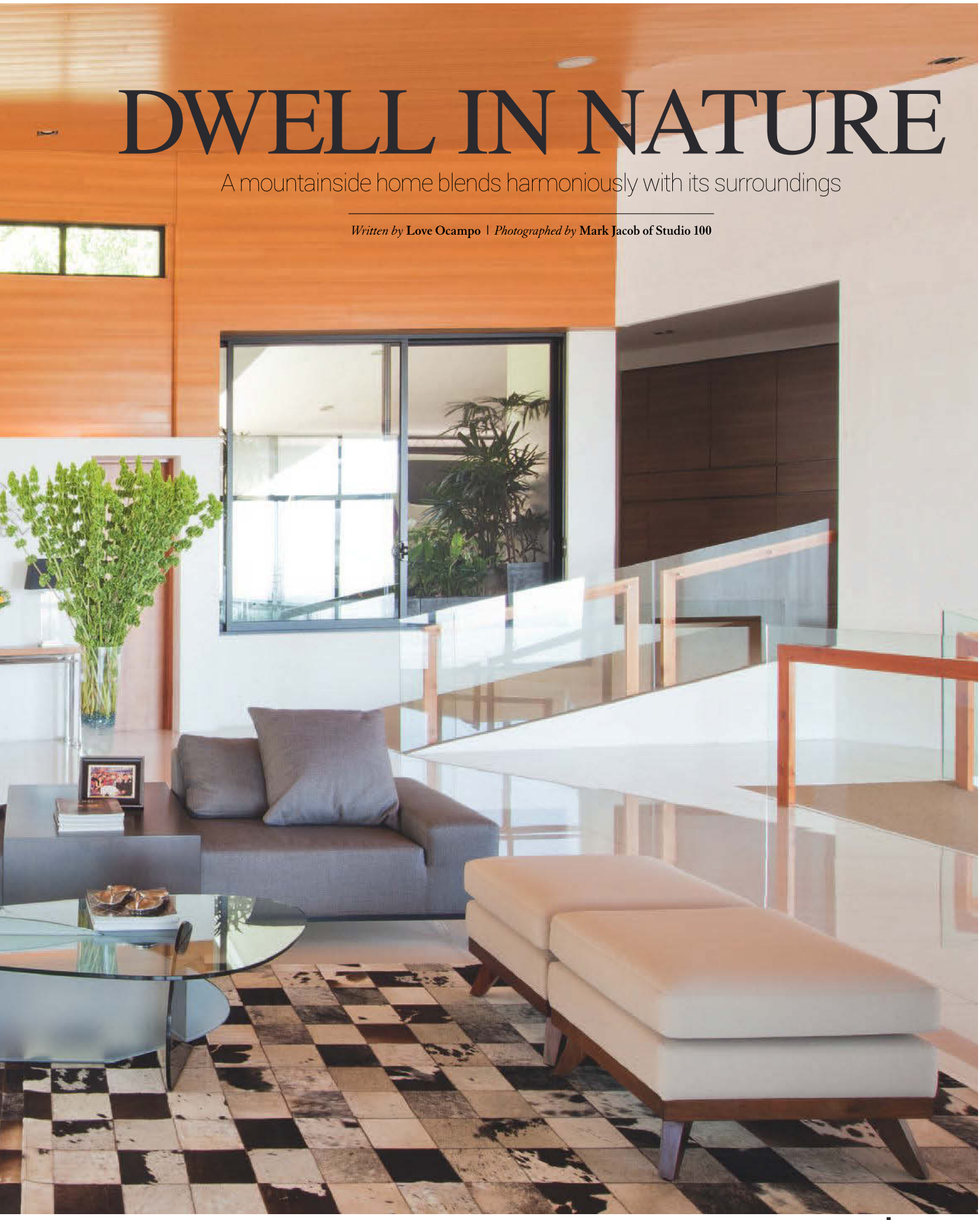


The design revolves around maximizing natural air and daylight, as well as the view of the Mactan Channel that seems to separate the house from the busy metropolis. “My husband doesn’t like anything that is standard or has straight lines. He always wants to shake things up,” the owner shares. “There were many changes to the roof, until they decided to have it sloping because this will help with the rain. When it rains and water reaches the balcony, it resembles a curtain.”

DWELL IN NATURE

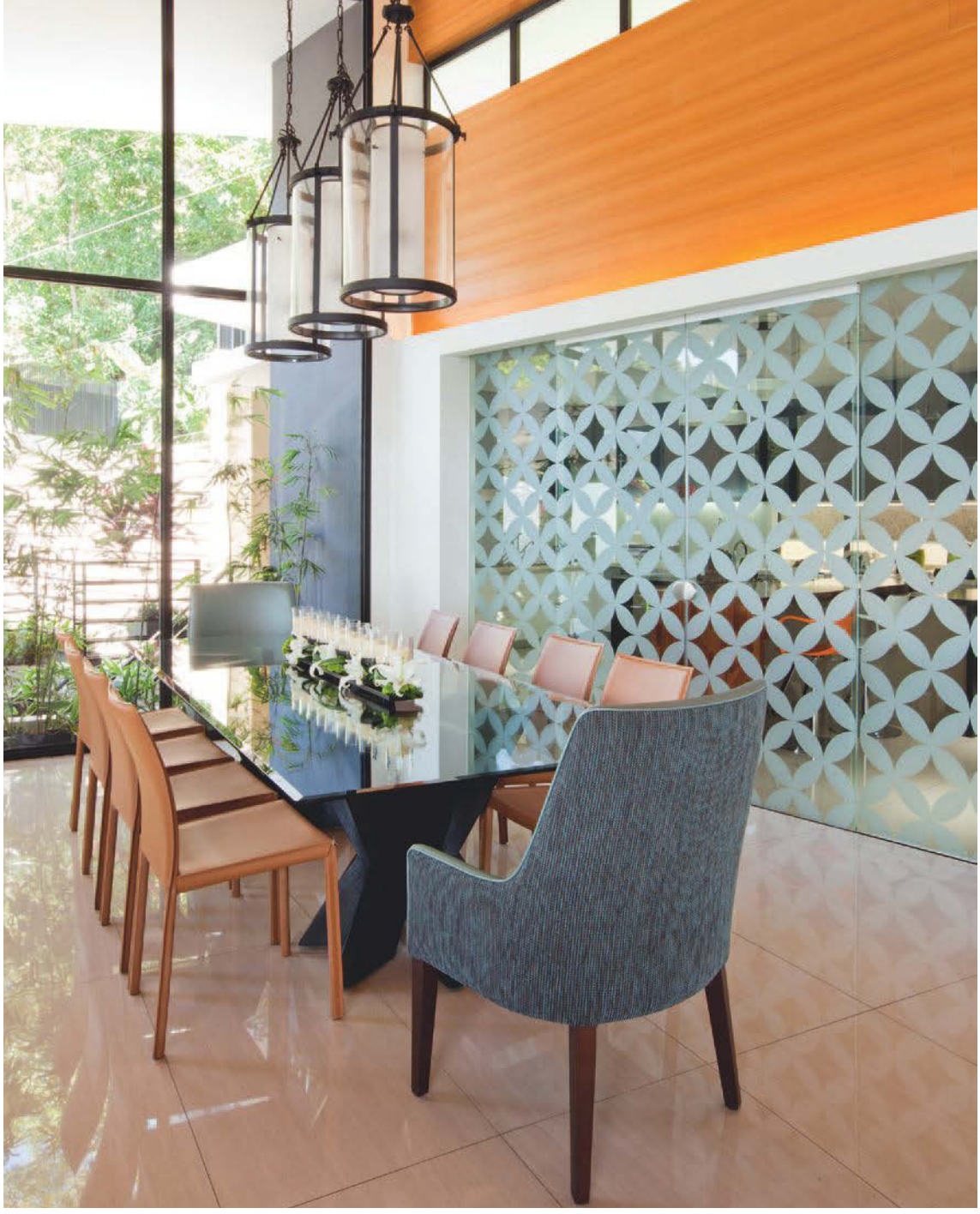
A mountainside home blends harmoniously with its surroundings

Written by **Love Ocampo** | *Photographed by* **Mark Jacob of Studio 100**





Found in the heart of the home, this open space is designed to bring the family together. The windows, walls, and ceiling are high and wide, so interior designer Nina Santamaria suggested a solid and heavy main door that could anchor the space. “The onyx door took three shipments before it arrived in Cebu in one piece,” the owners recall.



"The owners wanted the common areas to flow into the kitchen, but for clutter to still be hidden from guests, sliding glass doors had to be installed," says Nina. "The frosted design is meant to provide privacy without separating the space visually. It was also an opportunity for us to incorporate some curves and circles to a very linear and angular interior."

This two-storey Cebu residence is in conversation with its surroundings. Set within a plethora of greens, the family home soaks up the energies of the sun, wind, trees, and the great view of the Mactan channel. Such synergy is the result of a carefully considered architectural and design language created by the homeowners alongside Architect Runddy Ranillo and Manila-based interior designer Nina Santamaria.

Originally owned by the couple's in-laws, the house was transformed from an odd-shaped plan with irregular corners and dark dead spaces to an open layout with knocked down walls and increased ceiling height. As the project began, the family moved to Singapore for a year, which meant Nina had to travel back and forth to present her designs to the couple. It took two years to finish construction, and the house ended up becoming an ultimate family getaway, where not an inch is wasted. The primary inspiration was the laidback homes often featured in Restoration Hardware magazine, an American home furnishings company in California.

The overall design focuses on the seamless connection between the exteriors and the interiors, which was achieved through a well-balanced use of natural materials and tropical plants that surround the property. The fresh breeze entering the home, as well as the variety of birds often visiting the balcony, lends a resort-like feel to the dwelling. While angular shapes and fluid lines are balanced out by contemporary furniture, the interiors are a study in restraint. The owners opted for spacious, clean-lined rooms linked by sliding or pivoting doors, but Nina counterbalanced the rigorous approach with the generous use of tactile natural materials.





These include glazed porcelain floor tiles from Italy, matte paint for the walls, and wood plastic composite for the ceiling from Singapore. Furnishings are kept to a minimum, as the couple is not in a rush to buy until they're sure of the perfect piece. A couple of standout creations in their home are a gray couch by Milo Naval, a leather armchair from Natuzzi, a glass *Tonelli KUT* coffee table by Karim Rashid, ottomans and a dining table custom designed by Nina, dining chairs from Bo Concept, a mirrored *Psiche* console cabinet by G.T. Garattoni, and a droplight from Restoration Hardware.

The project is still a work-in-progress—missing pieces like artworks, accent chairs, and lounge seats for the balcony still need to be put in place. Moreover, the lower floors consisting of bedrooms, a gym, and a storage room have yet to be designed. But even in its current state, the owners find joy in their home because, despite its grand scale, it manages to reflect the low-key and open personalities of its occupants.

More than conveying a harmonious relationship with the surroundings, the family home is about the celebration of life. This is expressed in interior elements like music played in rooms, oversized plants, and furniture pieces that spark conversations, which are all factors that encourage a laidback lifestyle for family and friends. This home has definitely been given new life.



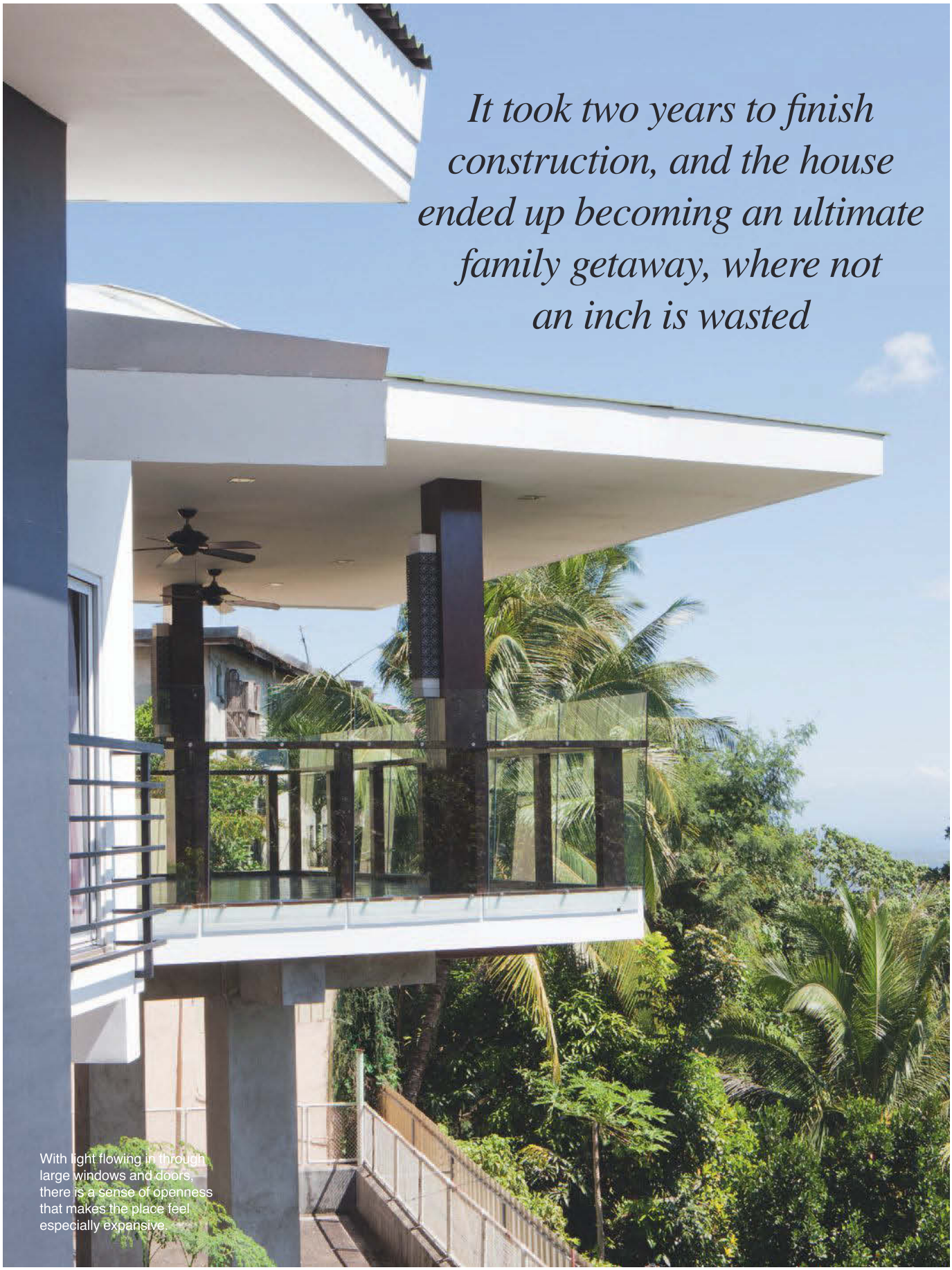
Nina and the owners are still in the process of deciding on the design downstairs, where there will soon be a gym, a storage room, and two to three more bedrooms.





Above: This area is used to entertain friends and relatives who are visiting. The owners' daughter also uses it as a sanctuary to paint in while overlooking the view.
Right: The furniture set in the balcony is from Diretso, a furniture company based in Pampanga. The door to the left serves as another entrance to the house. "We actually have three entrances to the house: the main door, the one that leads to the kitchen, and the other to the balcony," the owner shares. "I think it's okay to have several entrances so that when we hold parties, the workers don't have to enter the house."


WEALTH

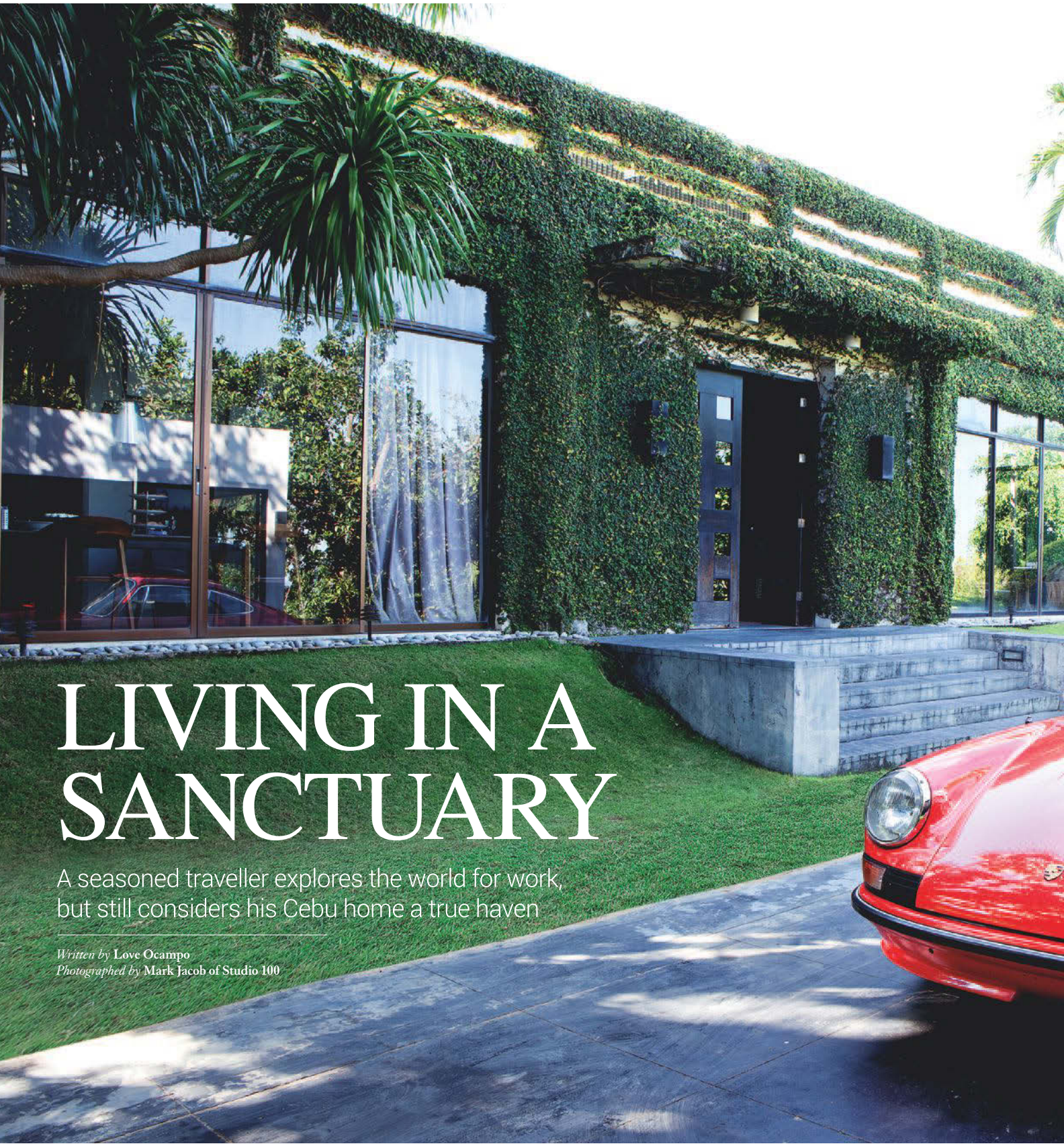


It took two years to finish construction, and the house ended up becoming an ultimate family getaway, where not an inch is wasted

With light flowing in through large windows and doors, there is a sense of openness that makes the place feel especially expansive.



The house is framed by a spectacular mountain view that separates it from the city. Residing in a home built on a steep slope in Cebu gives total privacy to the family of four.



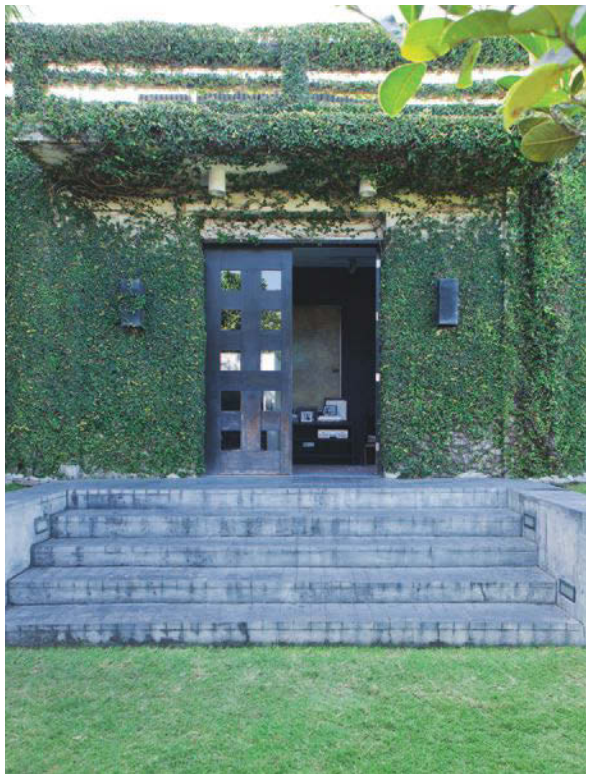
LIVING IN A SANCTUARY

A seasoned traveller explores the world for work, but still considers his Cebu home a true haven

Written by **Love Ocampo**
Photographed by **Mark Jacob of Studio 100**



The one-storey house is unexpectedly built under a swimming pool and on a two-hectare property surrounded by greenery. “On the onset, I knew I wanted my home to utilize the view of the trees and the ocean, and allow sunlight to enter,” says the owner.



The floor plan is straightforward. Upon entering the house, one side leads to the kitchen and dining area, while the other is headed for the living room and bedroom.

Veering away from typical designs, the one-storey home of an established business owner is within their family compound built on a mountain—and rests under a swimming pool. The boxy structure’s exterior is crawling with vines, and this green facade is interrupted by large glass sliding doors that allow sunlight in. “I like natural light,” the owner emphasizes. “Even in restaurants, I choose to sit outside or by the window because I like the sunlight on my face.”

A frustrated artist and designer, the businessman planned the house himself, but admits there wasn’t a lot to do since the structure was already in place. The interiors are mostly open, with high ceilings, plain white walls, and large wood-and-glass doors. Lining the walls and perched above cabinets are paintings by both foreign and local artists like Elmer Borlongan and fellow Cebuano Tito Cuevas, as well as the businessman’s own dramatic black-and-white photos.

The furnishings reflect the homeowner’s strong sense of history and local pride with designer pieces by Kenneth Cobonpue, alongside solid wood benches and his mother’s antique table. A mix of old and new fills the house with life, character, and warmth. “I want my home to feel lived in,” he says.



"I design by feel," shares the homeowner. "When I design a place, I try to envision what I'll be doing there. Or when I buy furniture like the black leather chairs, I don't think about where they were made or who the designer is—I ended up buying them because I liked them." An art piece by an Iloilo painter greets guests upon entrance, along with a special walking staff given by his late uncle, an hour glass from Zara Home in Spain, a candle holder from Italy, and a sculpture from his renowned classmate Mia Herbosa.


ANDREAS H. BITESNICH TRAVEL



Left: A Marcel Wander chair sits in a corner right by the dining area.

Right: "I really need to like an item before I buy it because when I put things together, the pieces don't have to be planned out," the homeowner says. The hand-me-down table from his mom is surrounded by the extra chairs he fell in love with and bought while dining at Tavolata restaurant. Philippe Starks' *Flos* droplight tops off this dining room scene.

Outside, the trees offer shelter for the deck, where the owner spends most of his time. "The deck is an extension of my living space for intimate dinners with friends or lazy afternoons with my children," he says. The deck is situated next to the garage, which houses the owner's vintage sports cars. Although the cars may seem to be the most noticeable representation of his passions, smaller keepsakes like photos and paintings given as gifts—even stones that he and his children have picked up during trips—are displayed throughout the house.

The homeowner tries to squeeze in leisurely travelling despite the many businesses he is handling. In fact, his passion for travel is what started his successful business venture. Still, he admits that nothing beats the luxury of personal space when he is with the company of his children at home. "My house is very important. It gives me the quiet and rest I need, whether I am coming home from a tiring day at work or starting another week," he shares. In the near future, the father and his children will be building a new home surrounded by large trees at the edge of a mountain. "It will have the same feel as this house, but bigger to accommodate my family," he says, hinting that he wants to retain the clean lines and use of glass. "But for now, I really don't mind spending a long time here. I dare say that I feel content and grateful to live in a place like this. For me, this place is my sanctuary."



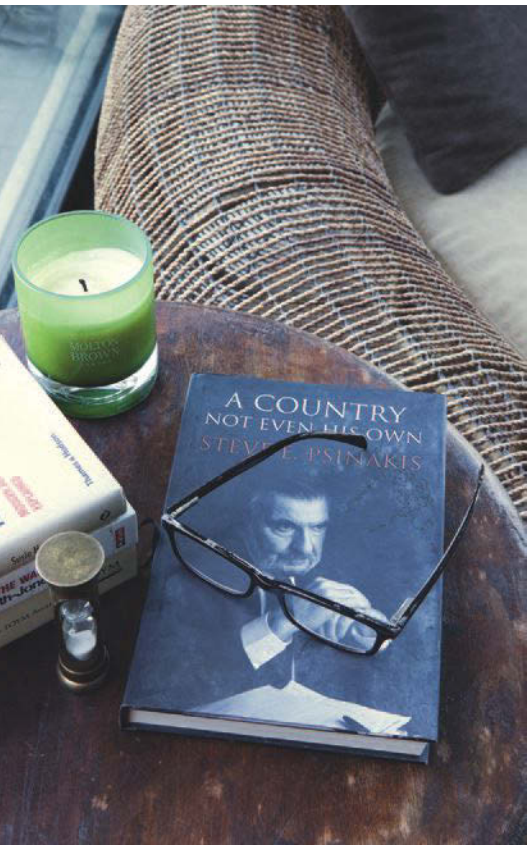


Sitting on a sunny corner of the glass-windowed living room is Kenneth Cobonpue's *Croissant* sofa, on which the owner loves to read and lounge during his spare time.

"My house is very important. It gives me the quiet and rest I need, whether I am coming home from a tiring day at work or starting another week"



A wide bookshelf that covers one wall of the homeowner's living room holds books, CDs and DVDs, and artworks by Ronald Ventura, Elmer Borlongan, and Vidal Alcoseba.



"I dare say that I feel content and grateful to live in a place like this. For me, this place is my sanctuary"



Books are scattered around the owner's house, along with precious mementos like the stone that he and his children picked up during one of their trips.



One wall leading to the owner's bedroom is adorned with paintings by Gigi Ocampo and Tom Jopson. Two paintings brought by Tito Cuevas to his office also hang above the sliding door. "I like a lot of abstract expressionists and, oftentimes, I admire those that aren't mainstream. Some are not even out of school yet," he shares. "Normally I judge based on visual impact, but I go through phases and streaks because I don't have so much room for my paintings in this house."



Despite the amount of sunlight that floods the house, the surrounding mahogany and *talisay* trees keep the house cool, and protect it from strong wind and harsh glare.



The hillside property provides a view of both the city and the mountains. The deck is one of the owner's favorite spots, where he works, eats, grills, or hosts get-togethers.

“This is where my bed was before, but I had the house extended so I could have an anteroom for my children and I to watch movies in,” the owner shares. “I’m a visual person, but after I got frustrated that my ideas don’t come out the way I envision them, I decided to shift to photography.” The owner started taking photos during a trip, and this has become a hobby as he is happier with his photos than with his paintings. In his room are several photos taken using his iPhone, as well as a leather chair from Hong Kong and a coffee table by Kenneth Cobonpue.







“I like to be neat and tidy, so that I can find my things easily,” the owner relates. On the wall of this walk-in closet by the bedroom are art pieces by Vidal Alcoseba.





Screened by pandan trees of the thornless variety that are endemic to Palawan, the house sits right off the beach and is made primarily of wood. "Ipil was used for flooring, posts, and foundations; a mix of almaciga, nato, and apitong for walls and panels; and narra for furniture," explains property manager William Magsino. "The wood came from a local logging company in the late 80s before logging was banned in the island. The house sustained some damage from a typhoon in the late 90s, and wood had to be shipped in from Luzon since a total log ban was already in effect then."

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

Take a tour of a house built by conservationists and the pristine environment surrounding it

Written by **Andy Portugal**
Photographed by **Mark Jacob of Studio 100**

It is a house that would fit right into your dream vacation. Nestled among the lush vegetation of Boayan Island in Palawan, the house sits between the Daplac Bay up front and the West Philippine Sea out back. Unassuming and down-to-earth in appearance, the house was built to fit nicely and quietly into its landscape. It stands as mellow and as raw as the island it is built on—almost as though it grew from the ground, right alongside the surrounding trees.

"The design of the house was inspired by the original owners' desire to build something that would blend in with nature, leave as little carbon footprint as possible, and maximize what nature has to offer by way of renewable energy," says property manager William Magsino. "It was designed by its original owners Philippe Girardeau and Ditchay Roxas. They used to rent it out to couples and honeymooners who shared the same mindset when it came to eco-friendly vacations." The couple, known for their passionate commitment to environmental conservation and reef rehabilitation, has since passed on ownership to a young like-minded family of five. Staff members of the South Seas Reef Rehab, a group that aims to revive the coral reefs of Daplac Bay, occupy the back room on occasion as well.

Its enviable location gives the house unobstructed views of the open sea on one side and the inside of the bay on the other. "The location also takes advantage of the wind that blows in between the hills on both sides of the house, from the open sea into the bay," shares William. Construction of the house covered a period of over a year, with Philippe and Ditchay shuttling between the Philippines and France at the time. It is surprising to know that the house is more or less 25 years old, considering the excellent condition it is in. Or perhaps not so surprising, in light of the fact that it is a house maintained by driven, eco-conscious individuals. William further shares that coral reef rehabilitation is on-going in the bay fronting the house. "Rehabilitation has been going on for close to three years now," he explains. "The results have been very encouraging so far."



The house has a master bedroom, a side room, a back room, and a kitchen. On challenges experienced during construction of the house, William says the logistic aspect was particularly difficult. "Bringing in materials from the mainland, especially during typhoon season, and finding skilled workers willing to stay on the island for long periods were a problem," he shares.





Boredom is a non-existent concept here as guests have a bevy of activities to choose from. "Swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, and sailing are just some of the activities you can do in the water," says Biboy. If you prefer to stay on land, he suggests mountain climbing, hiking, bird and wildlife watching, or simply sitting back to enjoy nature.

Reforestation of surrounding hills that were previously subjected to *kaingin* is also in progress. "We have planted vetiver grass to help prevent soil erosion in strategic areas around the property and the surrounding hills," says William. Efforts to have the bay declared a marine-protected area in order to help improve fish stock for the town of San Vicente are underway as well.

With all these programs in place, it is hardly a wonder that guests staying in the house have the chance to get neighborly with the island's wildlife—many of which have found sanctuary within the property. "About 80 meters to the right of the house is a cluster of big holes in the sand, which Tabon birds, an endangered species, use as nests (similar to sea turtles)," relates William. "Eagles, parrots, Palawan hornbills, herons, and a host of other birds can also be found within the property." The marine life around the island is equally diverse. Seasonal sightings of sea otters, *dugongs*, sea turtles, and reef sharks have been made within the bay. "The number of fish inside the bay has risen significantly since we stopped the fishing inside," adds William.

If anything, the ease with which the wildlife roams the property is a clear indication of its Eden-like qualities. The house itself—open, welcoming, and steadfast—is symbolic of the people dedicated to keeping it that way. Something equally as awesome as, say, the sight of sea otters sunbathing on the rocks.

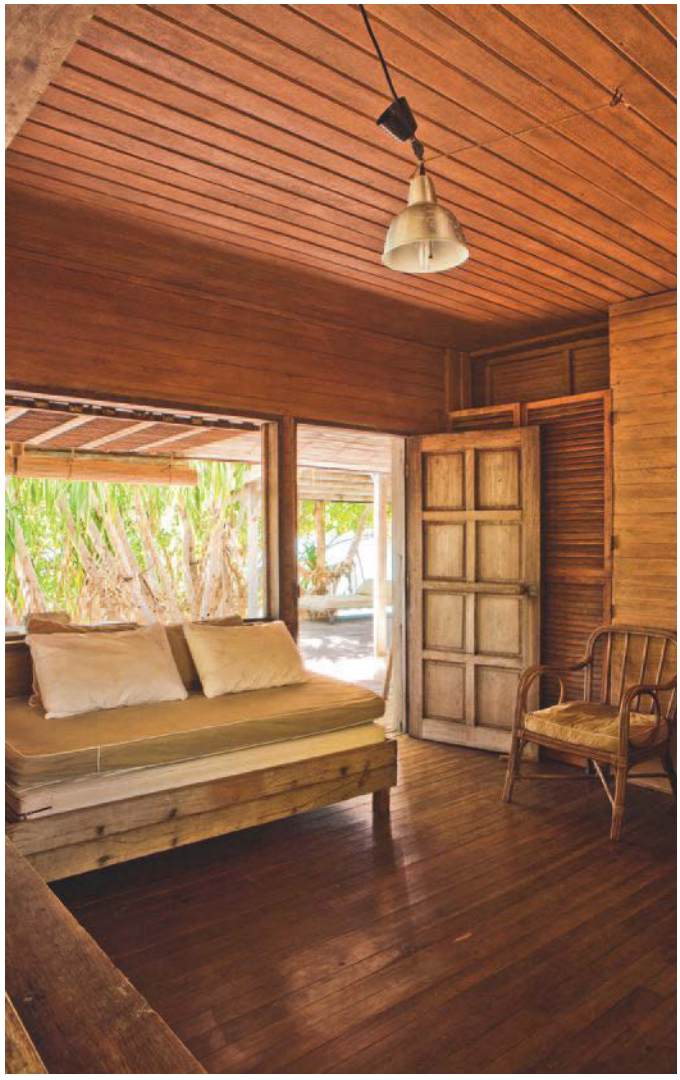


The house is generally sturdy and requires minimal maintenance. "We are always on the lookout for corrosion on metal parts of the house," explains William. "We also make sure there is extra protection for windows and rooms during typhoons, such as additional plywood covers."



The airy master bedroom is a picture of simplicity and serenity, with white linens that blow with the sea breeze and wide views of the pandan trees outside.





Left: “What makes the house unique is that it’s an open house, meaning all windows can be opened to take advantage of the wind to cool the house,” relates William. “There is no electricity except the renewable kind.” **Right:** Every piece of furniture in the house was designed by Girardeau and Roxas, and custom-made by locals on the island and in Puerto Princesa City.



William says solar panels and windmills are used to generate power for the house. “There is a generator, but it is only used to pump water from the well to water tanks,” he says.

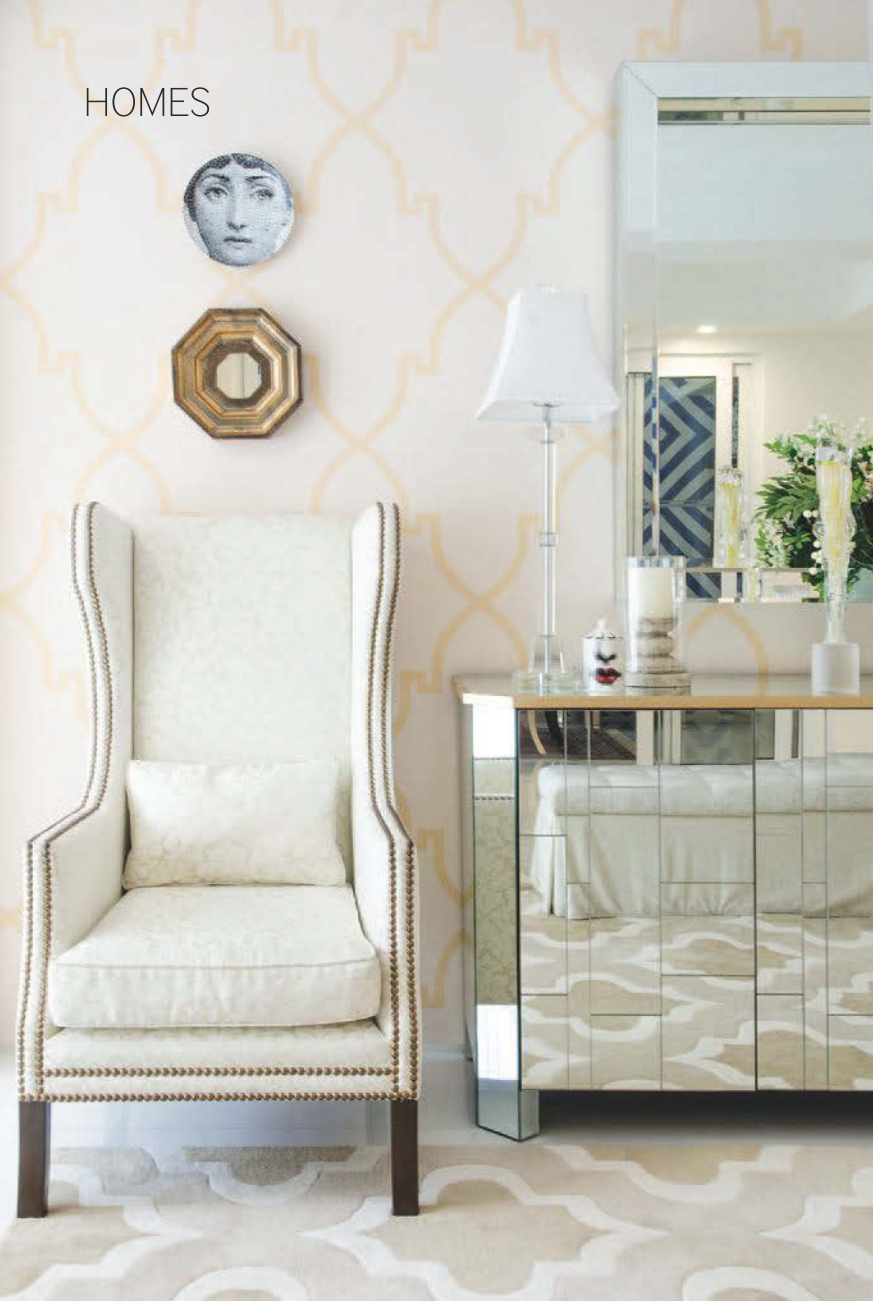


On the best time to come and stay on the island, William says that summertime is ideal. “But really, any time is a good time as long as there is good weather.”


The house itself—open, welcoming, and steadfast—is symbolic of the people dedicated to keeping it that way



The lush island of Boayan is around 8 nautical miles from the town of San Vicente, approximately 50 to 60 minutes by *bangka* or 25 minutes by speedboat, depending on the weather. It boasts of diverse wildlife with various species of birds, land animals, and sea creatures who find sanctuary on the island and call it home.



The couple is fairly easy to please, but what they are strict about is the quality of the materials used for their furniture pieces and accessories. The couches, for example, have to incorporate soft fabrics that give of luxurious appeal. "They don't necessarily have to cost a fortune, but the quality must always be nice," says the lady of the house.

FIVE STARS

A couple who has seen much of the world builds a home of luxury and comfort

Written by **Cy Yambao**
Photographed by **Mike Cuevas of Studio 100**

There are places we refer to as our home away from home, and those we fall in love with from the very first visit often become inspirations for when we build our own dwelling. For a couple who has travelled the world and has stayed in the most luxurious of hotels across continents, there was but one dream waiting to be fulfilled: a spacious two-level residence that evokes a hotel-like ambiance right from the entrance doors.

"The whole idea was just to have the feel of Solaire, that's all," the lady of the house straightforwardly shares. She and her husband would frequently book a villa at the resort and casino, so everything about the lavish staycation experience has been recreated in their 1,000-square meter property—except for the panoramic view of the Manila Bay, replaced by a verdant garden with a pool and a playground for kids.

The couple owes it all to interior designer Rock Robins, whose work the wife stumbled upon while searching for the country's top interior decorators on the web. "He is really such a good designer, and he got what we wanted right away. This is more than what we expected," says the lady of the house. The high-ceilinged home is bathed in several shades of creams and beiges, the neutral palette brightening spaces and allowing sunlight in through glass windows.

Simple wallpaper, winged chairs, Fornasetti plates, and mirrored console tables are only a few elements that give guests a warm and befitting welcome in the foyer. Majority of the furniture pieces were custom-designed from Home Matters, but interior designer Rock Robins made sure to have the designs and fabrics approved by his clients beforehand.



Rock had a mahjong table custom-made for the den, as the couple considers the game their favorite pastime. The carpet on which it stands was purchased from Tai Ping, and is a manifestation of the husband's penchant for intricately designed rugs.





The symmetrical living room spells grandiosity with its high ceiling, patterned walls, gold-framed couches and mirrors, tufted ottomans, a high quality rug, and an elegant chandelier that crowns the entire space.

"I wanted our house to be simple, but my friends don't seem to know me as that type," the lady of the house narrates. What she's trying to say is that she really just prefers clean and elegant interiors.







The existing high-back dining chairs from the former family home go well with the luxurious ambiance of their present dwelling. The dining area displays a sentimental piece from a friend of the wife—a framed carpet hanging over a console table on the left (not seen on the photo) “It’s so funny because we really want to highlight this small carpet, but it’s already framed, so we don’t know where to put it,” the lady of the house shares. “It’s handmade from Iran, and because there are 200 knots per stitch, it does cost an arm and a leg.”

“Feel free to just express yourself and be really happy. If you’re not, one can feel right away that your house is gloomy”



While the main living area is comfortable in its own right, this secondary seating area by the wood-and-glass staircase is a family favorite. The wife's mother shares how they all head straight to this corner upon entering the home, with the kids even running excitedly towards the tufted velvet couch.

Majority of the furniture pieces custom-designed by Home Matters follow a contemporary aesthetic, a style evidently reflected in the mostly tufted and high-back seating options. Enough rooms are available for relatives to occupy whether or not the couple is away on business trips, and nothing feels missing now that the family is residing in a community that has become close to their hearts.

"This is my dream house already," the lady of the house claims, after having moved in from a relatively small condominium unit for more than a year now. While she recommends hiring a trusted interior designer for your house to turn out exactly how you want it to be, the wife believes that the significance of a home is still anchored on your own preferences and disposition. "Feel free to just express yourself and be really happy," she advises. "If you're not, one can feel right away that your house is gloomy. But if you have a happy home, it will reflect how you and your family live."



In the second floor landing is another living area, which follows the same design style with its tufted sofas in pristine white. The wall is lined with framed photos that chronicle the growing years of the couple's two children.

No renovations were done upon moving in, except for the master bedroom, where the bathroom and walk-in closet used to be joined together. "Rock and I were saying that ladies have more shoes and clothes, so we really have to separate the two," says the lady of the house, who now has her dream walk-in closet that houses her countless designer shoes and bags.




Roger Vivier



The only pop of color in the dominantly neutral palette is found in the nautica-themed bedroom of the couple's son.



Despite having two young children, the lady of the house didn't necessarily request for their home to be childproofed. "I just told Rock not to have the furniture pieces edgy because those are not going to be safe for my family," she says. She had the pool fenced, but will eventually have it removed as the kids grow older.

"If you have a happy home, it will reflect how you and your family live"

The lady of the house spends a lot of time in their theatre room, as well as in the garden that offers a refreshing view of a lush landscape. The outdoor furniture sets have been brought over from the family's old home, as the wife feels it's a waste to throw them all away.





Vibrant Splash

Colors and patterns define the bright outlook of creative director Cheryl Alba

Produced by **Love Ocampo** | *Photographed by* **Mark Jacob of Studio 100**



Cheryl Alba took inspiration from the office of her sister-in-law. "I wanted an eclectic office that was chic and had unique furniture pieces like my bubblegum-colored office chair," she shares. "When I designed my office, I knew exactly who to go to have things made. I would rather choose items that are reasonably priced but looks expensive at the same time."



Cheryl is obsessed with brick walls and chevron patterns, as evident in the two most dominant elements in her workspace. "My favorite in my office is actually my kids' corner. I allotted space for them where I encourage them to write, paint, scribble on the white board, or do their homework," she says.



"When I saw them at the showroom, they were made of wood," says Cheryl of the bird-like shelves by famous Cebu furniture designer Carlo Cordaro. "I had him change them to bright and neon colors, and also asked him to add two extra birds."

1. How would you describe your workspace?
It is colorful, eclectic, and funky chic. There should always be something that pops out of the ordinary.

2. What do you love most about your workspace?
Since I'm the creative head, I like that my office's design is unusual. I love having little things that you don't normally find, such as the scotch tape holder shaped as a stiletto or my lady bug thumbtacks.

3. Do you have a daily ritual before starting your work day?
I check my paperwork, especially the ones I wasn't able to finish the day before, and do rounds.

4. Are you more productive in the morning or evening?
Since this isn't my only job, I'm usually here at Bright Academy in the morning—the same time my kids are in school. In the afternoon, I visit Rico's Lechon, Taters, and My Playroom Day Care.

5. Which object in your office are you most sentimental about?
It is definitely my kids' station because it reminds me not only why I work, but also why it's important to love what you do.

6. What are the three things you must have while working?
Colored pencils, scotch tape, and scratch paper to write my random ideas on

7. Do you prefer silence or listening to music while working?
I prefer silence.

8. What are you currently reading?
The Best Advice I Ever Got by Katie Couric. It is a great book because she compiled advice about life, success, and happiness from different leaders and visionaries.

9. Where do you get inspiration from?
Right now, I get inspiration from posts on social media sites. I also get inspired while on my way to work, when I see something on the street, or when I'm travelling.

10. What is your work mantra?
To always leave a place better than how you found it



Cheryl Alba is the creative director at Bright Academy in Cebu. She is also part-owner of Rico's Lechon restaurant, Taters, and My Playroom Daycare. Aside from her busy schedule, she also tends to her four children.

The World on a Plate

Have a taste of the world in these culturally rich table settings

Written by **Cy Yambao** | *Photographed by* **Mike Cuevas of Studio 100**
Styled by **Kaity Chua and Melissa Orozco of The Wareshop**

The manner in which you set your table can very well transport your guests to your destination of choice, in the same way serving a variety of cuisines can bring your favorite vacation places much closer to home. This month, gather your family and friends in an out-of-the-country getaway sans the plane tickets and heavy luggage by preparing themed table settings inspired by three must-visit countries. Experience the thrill of dining across a safari in South Africa, having coffee by the Eiffel Tower in France, or indulging in flavorful dishes in India with just the use of colors, patterns, and textures.

1

2

3

4

5

SOUTH AFRICA
South Africa brings to mind the image of untamed animals running in the wild. Find yourself in the same vast landscape by incorporating earth tones like browns, whites, and beiges in your table setting. Bank on a sepia color palette, woven fabrics, wooden surfaces, and faux animal prints used sparingly to convey a warm and organic ambiance.

1. Studio small mug, P239 | 2. *Scavo* appetizer, P129 | 3. Studio platter, P849 | 4. *Celeste* salad, P1,199 | 5. Welcome 3-piece place setting, P709
All items available at Crate & Barrel

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INDIA
The history of India is as rich as the flavors of its spices and as colorful as its countless festivals. Bring the country's diverse culture to your table with vibrant hues like orange and teal paired with classic tones of copper and gold. An Indian wood block-printed table cloth is an ideal backdrop, while peacock-inspired plates coupled with traditional glassware define the overall identity of this table setting.

1. **Indigo violet,** P399, available at L'Indochine | 2. **Plumage peacock dinner plate,** P550, available at The Wareshop | 3. **Train peacock dinner plate,** P550, available at The Wareshop | 4. **Terracotta porcelain caldero,** P140, available at Gourdo's | 5. **Blue acqua,** P399, available at L'Indochine | 6. **Blue-green plate,** P2,599.75, available at L'Indochine | 7. **Indigo green,** P399, available at L'Indochine | 8. **Toulouse orange plate,** P1,479, available at Crate and Barrel

Gourdo's 4/L Mega Fashion Hall, SM Megamall, EDSA corner J. Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong **H&M Home** G/F SM Makati, Ayala Center corner EDSA, Makati *Phone* (02) 893 1612 *Website* hm.com/ph **L'Indochine** 4/L Mega Fashion Hall, SM Megamall, EDSA corner J. Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong **The Wareshop** *Website* thewareshop.com, @thewareshop on Instagram

FRANCE

Known as the most romantic city in the world, Paris is often associated with pastel shades, floral prints, and toile de jouy patterns. Recreate the popular tradition of French tête-à-tête over coffee or tea in your home through a well-balanced combination of pinks and creams, of lace cloths and dainty fabrics. Top these with printed bone china and intricately designed pieces to achieve an old-fashioned country charm.

1. **Table cloth,** P899, available at H&M Home | 2. **Swirl plate,** P220, available at The Wareshop | 3. **Towel,** P199, available at H&M Home



Designed by Toan Nguyen, the WA dining collection features angles and curves that make each piece appear to be in motion.

Open Air

How to keep your outdoor furniture in their best condition

Written by **Razel Estrella** | *Photos courtesy of* **Dedon**



SeaX lounge chair

Since they are exposed to more elements than the furniture pieces inside the house, outdoor furniture need extra TLC. If you're the type who doesn't really spend much time in the garden or the backyard (given that the country's weather encourages you to stay in your rooms and turn the air-conditioning on), and only uses these spaces when having guests around, better check now if your wicker chairs and wooden bench are in good condition.

For some general rules:

Ideally, outdoor furniture must be cleaned every month; if not, at least four times a year. The key is not to wait until you see dirt buildup before cleaning.

Store the furniture indoors during wet season to prevent damages that may be caused by the heavy rains and winds.

Most outdoor furniture can be cleaned with mild soap and water or a soda/vinegar and water solution.

Outdoor furniture pieces are commonly made of wood, metal, glass, plastic, and fabric. For these particular materials, specific cleaning methods may apply.

Wood

Regularly wipe wood with soft fabric to remove dirt and keep it dry.
For more thorough cleaning and protection, wood cleaners are available in the market.
Consider annual sanding for hard wood. To sand means to smooth or polish with sandpaper, which is available in most hardware shops. After sanding, apply a coat of protective finish like oil, varnish, or polyurethane coating.

Metal

What you have to take care of with metal is its luster. Wash it frequently with a mixture of dishwashing detergent and warm water.
Scrub the surface, rinse, and then dry.
Remove rust and damaged paint with sandpaper.
For wrought-iron furniture, consider sandblasting, where a jet of sand is propelled by compressed air or steam. This method is also good for cleaning glass and stone.

Glass

Glass requires more effort to maintain. To begin with, you can easily see if it has already gathered dirt—and it's prone to collecting dirt.
When not in use, cover glass tables.
Clean with a solution of one part vinegar and four parts water.
Regularly wipe it with microfiber cloth or paper towel to prevent scratching.
Microfiber does a good job of not leaving streaks when the glass dries.
Don't forget to clean the underside of the glass at least once a month.

Plastic

Plastic furniture are durable and are the easiest to maintain, as they have high chemical resistance.
One downside of plastic, though, is that it can be easily scratched; therefore, avoid abrasive cleaners.
Hose plastic furniture first before scrubbing it with a cleaning solution, then rinse afterwards.
For stubborn stains, use distilled vinegar.
Avoid using chlorine and bleach for white plastic.





Fabric

Cushions and seat covers are usually made of canvas or synthetic materials. Most of these are machine-washable, but set the washing machine to a delicate cycle. Put the covering back on the furniture while still damp to maintain its form.
If the cloth can't be removed, gently brush off stains with a scrub brush dipped in laundry soap.

Top: Referred to as the "centerpiece of the garden" by its designer Philippe Starck, *Rayn* combines comfort and sophistication with an innovative mix of textures and materials to produce a lounge collection that suits any setting.

Bottom: Designer Jean-Marie Massaud brings elegance, sophistication, and modernity to life with the lightweight *SeaX* dining tables and chairs.

Dedon outdoor furniture are available at Living Innovations Corporation located at G/F Fort Victoria 5th Avenue corner 23rd Street, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. For inquiries, call (02) 734 3243, 828 8722, email info@livinginnovations.ph, or visit livinginnovations.ph.

The Veranda by W/17

Feel the carefree ambiance of outdoor living within the comforts of your home

Written by **Cy Yambao** | *Photographed by* **Mike Cuevas of Studio 100**



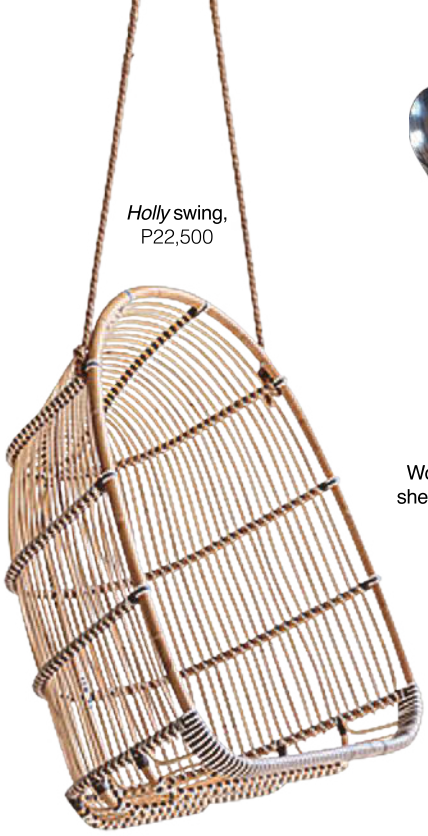
"While we would refer to W/17 as our town or city home, Veranda would be our getaway," says Kaye Tinga who, along with business partner Andy Vazquez Prada, presents outdoor living in a different perspective. Veranda by W/17 features outdoor furniture by Sika Design, a Danish company that experiments with traditional elements to produce modern masterpieces.

Attention-grabbing, tempting, and relaxing—three words you would use to describe the rattan swing hanging by the glass window of concept store Veranda by W/17. This outdoor seating, commonly found on island beaches but is now starting to become a home staple, is a fitting preview to what the new venture of style pioneers Kaye Tinga and Andy Vazquez Prada hides in its little space.

As the store name suggests, pieces in Veranda by W/17 are inspired by the outdoors, whether it's a beach getaway, a mountain hideaway, or even the lanai right within your house's perimeters. Kaye and Andy brought in Sika Design, a Danish brand known for producing fine outdoor furniture for decades, to epitomize the need to introduce the outdoors to the indoors for a fresh perspective. "There is a lot of outdoor furniture, but it seems that we are ready for a different take from what we're used to," shares Kaye. "We love the contemporary look that is prevalent in the market today; however, we also like how colonial and traditional rattan outdoor furniture are now presented in modern colors and shapes."

While the duo has already formed a strong clientele for their very first furnishings store, they continue to uphold the value of good design through a carefully selected collection of locally developed accent pieces and exceptional finds across the globe. "Some clients are willing to spend thousands on a pair of shoes that will last a season, but not on a Peking vase that they can pass on to the next generation," relates Kaye. "But that is quickly changing as more and more Filipinos appreciate the worth of quality and high value home pieces."

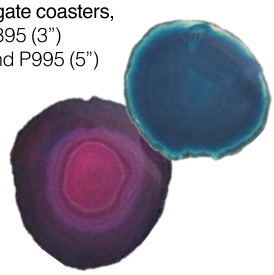
Holly swing,
P22,500





Wood and oyster
shell salad servers,
P3,250

Teal and purple
Agate coasters,
P395 (3")
and P995 (5")



Viggo Boesen *Fox* chair,
P39,500



Blue bowl,
P6,250





Don't be fooled by the relatively small floor area of Veranda by W/17! Its interiors, which were designed in collaboration with the owners' interior designer friend Johnny Ramirez, evoke a calming ambiance through the use of wood planks, white stones, plants, and floral arrangements.

Roger stool,
P7,950

Charles stool (small),
P12,500



Brass finish bowls, P1,950
(small), P4,950 (medium),
and P10,500 (large)





Joseph sunchair,
P42,500



Epicurious' signature street sign brings you to a crossroads: heading to the café for a quick coffee fix, ordering ready-made dishes or having chefs customize your meals at the deli, or dropping by the bakery to purchase pastries. The owners, together with FTADesign headed by Nix Alañon, collaborated on eclectic interiors that highlight an open demo kitchen.

Epicurious

Epic choices to feed your curiosity

Written by **Andrea Arines** | *Photographed by* **Ron Mendoza of Studio 100**

In the kitchen, homemakers always want to have it their way, and concept restaurant Epicurious provides a venue to create a dining experience that lives up to your standards. Designed like an organic market where you get to shop around for your preferred ingredients, Epicurious takes pride in their Culinary Studio comprised of an open demo kitchen and a pool of trusted chefs. Your artisanal gourmet dish will be ready not long after you've gotten a behind-the-scenes glimpse, and you'd find yourself wanting to try more of their healthy offerings.

Epicurious brings in both internationally and locally sourced ingredients, all of which are preservative and additive-free. Each signature concoction boasts of a distinctively unique flavor that satisfies your cravings, resulting in a lifestyle experience that goes beyond shopping and dining. Let your taste buds get the better of you this time, and feed both your hunger and curiosity in this food emporium.



Epicurious introduces the Shop-Cook-Eat concept, wherein you get to choose among a wide array of artisan ingredients and have these cooked straight by their trusted chefs. While they promote an organic lifestyle, Epicurious isn't one to deprive customers of rich flavors.

Epicurious is located at the lower ground level of Shangri-La Plaza Mall East Wing. Open from 11:00am until 9:00pm on Mondays to Thursdays; 11:00am until 10:00pm on Fridays and Saturdays; and 10:00am until 9:00pm on Sundays. For inquiries and reservations, call (02) 570 7741, 0917 590 7420 or email epicuriousmanila@gmail.com.



The tables at Epicurious are topped with colorful Machuca tiles, giving the traditional wooden dining tables a more classy spin.





At Epicurious, you get to order a fixed meal (P490) from the menu or combine your preferred selection of cold cuts, bread, different kinds of cheese, marinated meats, pasta, and drinks. After having paid for your meal, the chefs on standby prepare your dishes as you wait for your name to be called.



P1,575, available at Fully Booked



Vacation Vibe

Guidebooks to make your family want to stay home on a holiday

Written by **Aisne Trinidad** | *Photographed by* **Greg Mayo**

Holiday at Home

Holiday at Home is a creative visual guide to creating a holiday escape in your very own dwelling. Inspiration is everywhere, and this book shows just how much impromptu road trips, the summer season, and beach houses can unexpectedly convey fresh ideas to your design process. Learn how to play around with colors, recycled items, and forgotten details that can actually give off a carefree resort feel. *Holiday at Home* encourages you to daydream, express your thoughts, reflect, seek inspiration and, most of all, relax in the comforts of your laidback home.

Holiday Homes: Top of the World

Get a glimpse of the world's finest holiday homes set in idyllic locations like the USA, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, France, Italy, Austria, and Mexico. *Holiday Homes* presents exquisite dwellings with historical flair, panoramic ocean views, and mountainous backdrops that will certainly take your breath away. Find out how these 31 mansions, manors, and villas exude luxury and utmost comfort—built especially for spending holidays away from your usual routine. *Holiday Homes* is a must-have coffee table book for people in search of lavish home inspirations starting off with picturesque locations across the globe.

Weekend Retreats

There's nothing more comfortable than staying at home during the weekends. *Weekend Retreats* by Susanna Salk encourages you to transform your homes into an abode for relaxation; a retreat where one can be at peace, move at his own pace, and indulge in the comforts of private spaces without disruption. Each home featured in this book is personally renovated and designed by the owners, thus reflecting individual taste and style.



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The Bellevue Resort

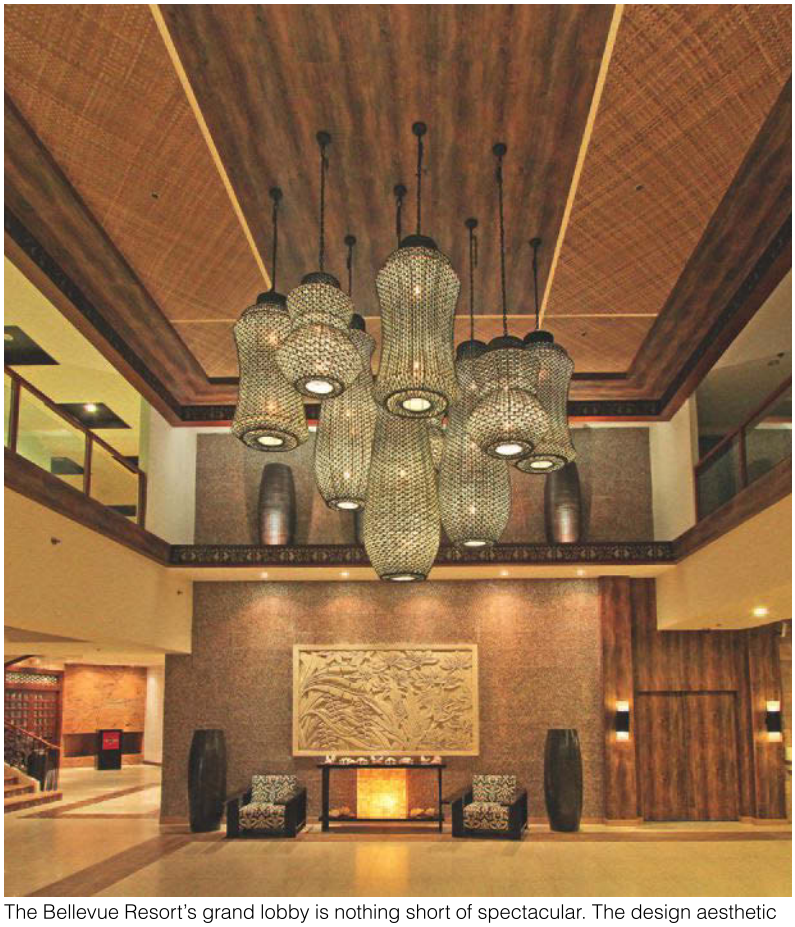
Escape to Bohol and experience the beauty of this world-class resort

Produced by **Love Ocampo** | *Photographed by* **Mark Jacob of Studio 100**

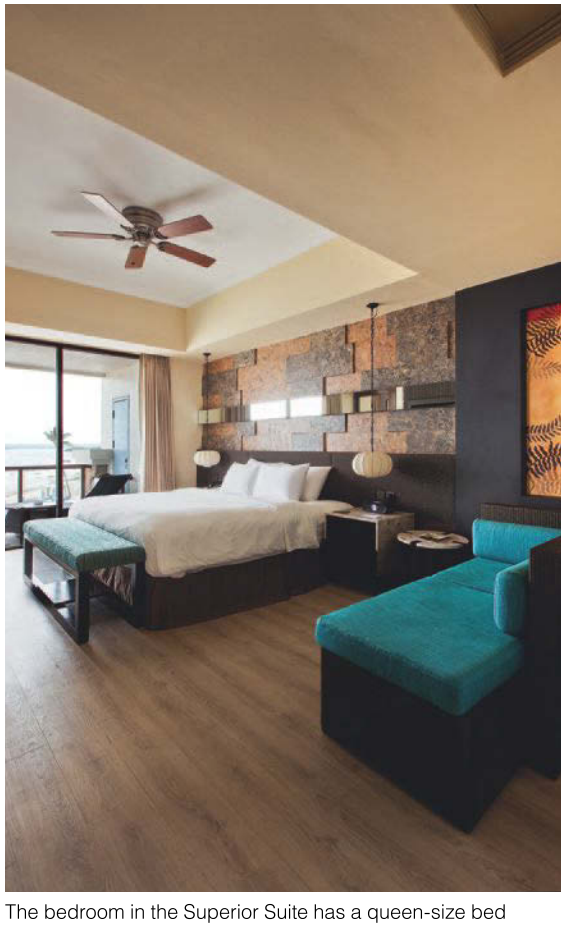
Tucked away at the south-western tip of Bohol is The Bellevue Resort, a luxurious getaway that offers stunning views of Doljo beach and takes pride in its 250-meter white-sand beachfront. It is packed with recreational facilities you and your family can enjoy: a kiddie area and game room for your children, a gym for the health enthusiasts, and Azurea spa for those longing for a body massage or a facial. Scrumptious dishes are served from a total of three restaurants namely Lamian, where the daily buffet breakfast is served, Marea that allows al fresco dining in a gazebo, and Flujo, which transforms into a bar in the evening. The Bellevue Resort is built to please travellers, making it a perfect destination when in Panglao.



The Superior Suite boasts of an LED TV with satellite, a coffee maker, and an iPod dock speaker where you can play your summer playlist. Try requesting for the corner suite, as this offers the best view of the ocean from the balcony.



The Bellevue Resort's grand lobby is nothing short of spectacular. The design aesthetic is in line with its Filipino roots.



The bedroom in the Superior Suite has a queen-size bed with comfy cotton duvet covers, as well as a chaise lounge for an additional guest.

 | **The Bellevue Resort** is located in Barangay Doljo, Panglao Island, Bohol. It is approximately 40 minutes away from Tagbilaran Airport. For inquiries, call (038) 422 2222, email info@bellevuebohol.com, or visit thebellevue.com.





After touring Bohol, pamper yourselves at Azurea Spa that offers massages, scrubs, treatments, and facials from P1,800 to P2,900. For health buffs who don't want to miss their workout sessions while on vacation, The Bellevue Resort's gym is fully equipped for your basic workouts.





Food served in all three restaurants of The Bellevue Resort is prepared by internationally acclaimed chefs. Try the *lechon kawali, sinigang na hipon*, or chicken *adobo*.



Lamian restaurant offers all-day international buffet and a la carte meals. You may choose to dine inside or outside, and even have your orders delivered to Marea restaurant if you prefer to enjoy your food by the ocean.



This wooden deck placed in the middle of the pool houses recliners for guests to laze around and relax on. If you get tired of the pool, make your way to the beachfront. Additional recliners line the 250-meter shoreline that gives a spectacular view of Doljo beach.

Maison by Nail Spa

The ultimate place for perfectly pampered nails

Written by **Andrea Arines**
Photographed by **Ron Mendoza of Studio 100**

Achieving a perfectly polished set of nails is not as easy as it sounds. It entails a lot of decision-making in terms of preferred cut, type of nail polish, and color based on your current mood. Maison by Nail Spa makes the entire process easier for you, as its modern eclectic interiors stimulate a comfortable ambiance that relaxes your senses. All you have to do is sit back on their lavish couches, immerse yourself in the French-Oriental surroundings, and let the staff give your nails a royal spa treatment.

Located within the Edades Complex in Rockwell, Maison by Nail Spa is an ideal place to spend time with family or friends. They offer traditional mani-pedi services, luxurious massages, and a wide array of stylish nail polish brands—making every visit worth your money and while.





Above: High ceiling, a patterned wall, a subdued color palette, gold-framed couches, and stately seating options define the eclectic interiors of Maison by Nail Spa. Designed by FTADesign headed by Nix Alañon, the French- and Oriental-inspired nail spa evokes the same feeling as entering a home.
Left: Maison by Nail Spa uses only sterilized and sanitized equipment, so keep your worries at bay and just maximize the experience. All their services include aromatherapy, soaking your hands in warm water mixed with Epsom salt, applying a cooling and sanitizing spray, basic cleaning, and choosing from a collection of stylish nail polishes.

 Maison by Nail Spa is located at G/F Edades Tower and Garden Villas, Amorsolo Drive, Rockwell Center. Open from 11:00am until 9:00pm on Mondays to Thursdays; 10:00am until 10:00pm on Fridays and Saturdays; and 10:00am until 9:00pm on Sundays. For inquiries and reservations, call (02) 893 2823.

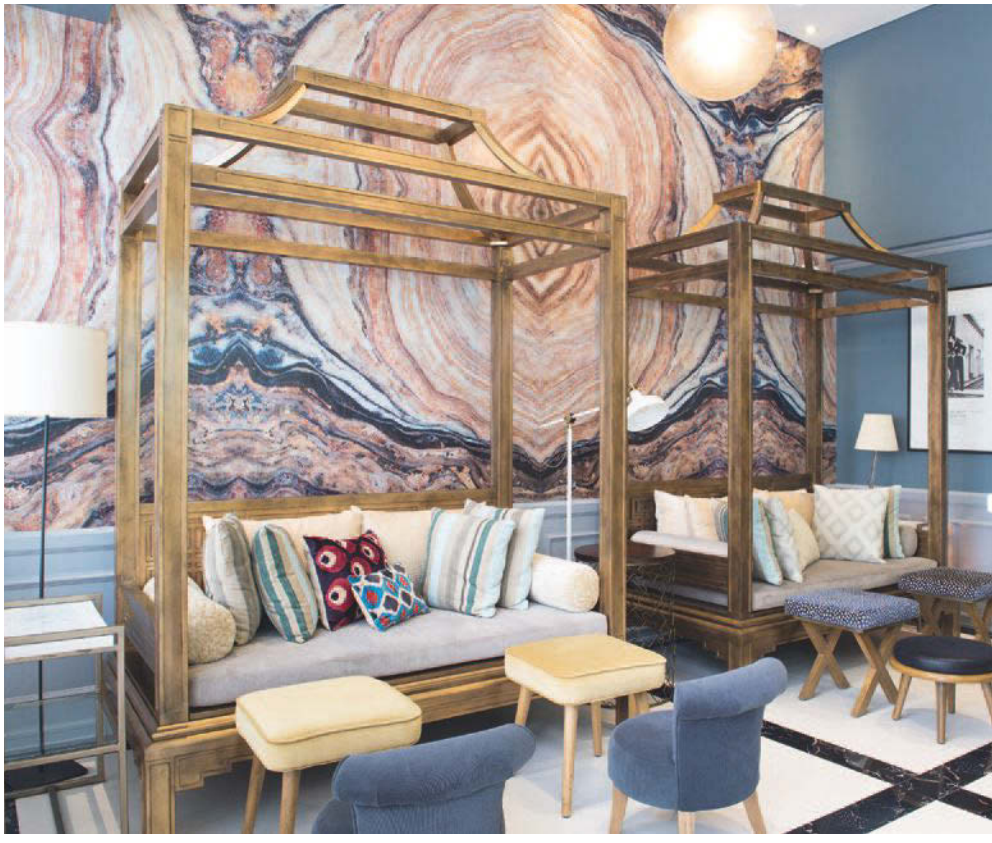




Left: While you will enjoy the nail spa experience on your own, going with your family or friends is also a great opportunity to catch up while listening to relaxing music.
Above: What greet guests upon entrance are rows of shelves lined with high-end nail polish brands like Christian Louboutin, Chanel, Essie, OPI, Deborah Lippmann, and Illamasqua.
Bottom: Feel like royalty in Maison by Nail Spa's gold-framed couches, which complement the elaborate stone wall behind.



Let the pampering continue with Maison by Nail Spa's complimentary beverage! You may choose among Stellina's Lemonade, Sola iced tea, coffee, hot tea, or water.



Leaving with Luck

Feng shui charms to prevent travel woes this April

Written by **Patti Sunio**
Illustrated by **Electrolychee Studio**



Reservations at the grandest hotel? Check. Flight schedule and travel itinerary? Check. Shopping budget and maps around the place? Check. When you've got your vacation all planned out, what could possibly go wrong? Well, there's bumping into unfortunate events, such as illnesses and accidents, along the way.

While there's no sure-fire way of predicting what lies ahead, taking precautionary measures like researching on *feng shui* charms and the best travel dates makes you one step ahead of the unexpected. *Feng shui* expert and psychic Master Hanz Cua gives a rundown of the lucky charms to bring on the road and sends you off on your lucky dates for traveling.

A popular *feng shui* cure, the Evil Eye's charm is used as protection against the impure intentions of others. "Always wear this blue medallion wherever you go, and make sure it's exposed well for everyone to see," says Master Hanz. A chili amulet is another means to drive away bad spirits from nearing you. "This is equivalent to the Filipino practice of using garlic to drive away evil."

A sculpture of the Lord Ganesh, even a miniature one that fits in your hand, is another way to have positive luck while traveling. "The presence of the Ganesh, the god with an elephant head, promotes a pleasant and harmonious environment, so it's good to place one in your hotel room," suggests Master Hanz. For good health throughout your trip, consider the Kwan Kong or the red-faced god known for deflecting illness. A rhino amulet ensures safety throughout the trip, while a Traveling Wealth Buddha that carries a money bag keeps wealth intact while traveling. "This is helpful especially when you want to make sure you only spend on what you need and not be lured by unnecessary expenses," he reveals.

Finally, another useful collection is your crystal stones, which are used in *feng shui* to create a good ambience. Black onyx and tourmaline beads make powerful protection against negativity. Clear quartz crystals draw in happy vibes and are particularly nice to look at, especially when they form rainbows as light passes through.

Rat

Lucky dates for travel: 2, 6, 7, 10, 14, 18, 19, 22, 26, 30
Not-so-good dates: 12, 24
As long as the Rat keeps focused and organized in accomplishing tasks, you will gain recognition for your hard work and make the most out of every opportunity this April.

Ox

Lucky dates for travel: 6, 7, 11, 15, 18, 19, 22, 27, 30
Not-so-good dates: 13, 25
Oxen should be careful with finances this month. It's advised that you be careful with investments, and avoid lending money for the meantime.

Tiger

Lucky dates for travel: 4, 5, 8, 12, 16, 17, 20, 24, 29
Not-so-good dates: 2, 13, 26
It'll be a very busy month for Tigers this April, which may put strain on relationships with family members and spouses. Traveling is good for you this month, so you can relax, unwind, and spend time with loved ones.

Rabbit

Lucky dates for travel: 1, 4, 5, 9, 13, 16, 17, 21, 25, 28, 29
Not-so-good dates: 1, 15, 27
Rabbits should be wary of backstabbers who might misunderstand what you say. You must also be careful in divulging personal agendas, plans, and ideas.

Dragon

Lucky dates for travel: 2, 3, 6, 10, 13, 15, 18, 22, 26, 27, 30
Not-so-good dates: 4, 15, 28
It'll be a very busy month for Dragons, so it's best that you exercise, take vitamins, and eat right to be able to find strength to accomplish all your tasks.

Snake

Lucky dates for travel: 2, 3, 7, 11, 14, 15, 19, 23, 26, 27
Not-so-good dates: 5, 17, 29
Snakes should be careful with what they eat, as wrong food choices may lead to illnesses like diabetes and high cholesterol.

Horse

Lucky dates for travel: 1, 4, 8, 12, 13, 16, 20
Not-so-good dates: 6, 18
April brings in many unpredictable problems for Horses. It's advised that you maintain a positive outlook, pray and meditate, and continue your hard work and effort in all tasks. Travel is also a good option this month.

Sheep

Lucky dates for travel: 1, 5, 9, 12, 13, 17, 21, 24, 25, 29
Not-so-good dates: 7, 19
Sheep should be extra careful in spending, especially with closing deals, to avoid unexpected additional charges or expenses.

Monkey

Lucky dates for travel: 2, 6, 10, 11, 14, 18, 22, 23, 26, 30
Not-so-good dates: 8, 20
For Monkeys, wealth and career look promising this April, as long as you stay focused and continue making the effort to excel.

Rooster

Lucky dates for travel: 3, 7, 10, 11, 16, 19, 22, 23, 27
Not-so-good dates: 9, 21
In general, the year doesn't look as well for Roosters, but April seems to be sending good signs. It's recommended for Roosters to seek the sun, go to the beach, and bask in the outdoors to cleanse and gain good energy.

Dog

Lucky dates for travel: 4, 8, 9, 14, 16, 20, 21, 24
Not-so-good dates: 10, 22
Dogs may encounter unexpected problems in finances, so you must closely monitor your budget and expenses for the month. You should also avoid traveling and extreme sports this month.

Boar

Lucky dates for travel: 5, 8, 9, 13, 17, 20, 21, 25, 29
Not-so-good dates: 11, 23
Instead of purchasing, Boars should invest hard-earned money. Conservative spending is key to keeping your finances in check.



Visit **Master Hanz Cua** at his 8 Treasures–House of Mystical Charms shop at 1/F EDSA Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong City or get in touch with him at 0922 8290 382.

Odds and Ends

Fashion designer and organic farmer Hindy Weber-Tantoco's favorite home items show how her family breathes life to the ordinary

Produced by **Cy Yambao** | *Styled by* **Aisne Trinidad** | *Photographed by* **Mike Cuevas of Studio 100**


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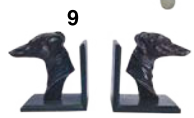

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1. "Before buying something new, I like to see what's around, what can be re-used, and what can be refurbished. This **upcycled cabinet** from Resurrection used to be black, but the store painted it white for me, so that it's not such a bloating presence in our house. It's become our China cabinet."

2. "I really don't know how it happened. I got the black lacquer one in Thailand, and then everyone just started giving me **owls**! This *feng shui* guy said owls represent protection, so it's good to have one right outside the front door looking out to protect your home at night. I have all sorts of owls now."

3. "We like combing the beach for odds and ends. We've always had a fascination for rocks, twigs, driftwood, sea glass, and other similar discarded things. The sheep **skeleton** is from the alpha male sheep in our farm when it died. We don't slaughter any of the animals, but our farmers came upon its buried skull, so we decided to just keep, clean, and give it a proper place in our home. The crocs are from Cambodia, which we got as *pasalubong* for our son who likes the outdoors."

4. "These **wooden lanterns** from India add so much personality and immediate warmth to any space. Other than candles, I also decorate them with flowers and fruits to serve as buffet table centerpieces when we have parties."

5. "I like multifunctional things. When we have parties, I use this **ice bucket** from Soumak to hold drinks and wine. Other times, it becomes a toy chest or a book bowl."

6. "This **candle** by my friend Macky Fäh is made of beeswax, which I love because they're nontoxic. I don't even have to light it up—I just open the cover and it already has a scent."

7. "I got this **accent** from Blue Carreon Home, and I just call it a firework. Sometimes we put postcards on it, but my kids love playing with it because of its meditative sound. The whole thing shakes, so it's a really interesting piece."

8. "We found this vintage trunk in the old storage of my husband's grandfather, and it was only when we brought it home and cleaned it up that we realized it was actually a **Louis Vuitton trunk**. It was an authentic trunk, but you hardly still see the monogram. It became even more special and kind of another story all together."

9. "I just really like the personality of the Greyhounds: wearing a scarf around their necks and looking so dignified. These **bookends** have followed us almost everywhere, as they suit different design styles. They've always found a place in our home."

10. "The **Magis chair** looks very simple, but it's surprisingly extremely comfortable. I love the juxtaposition of natural and synthetic materials, the play on rattan and plastic.

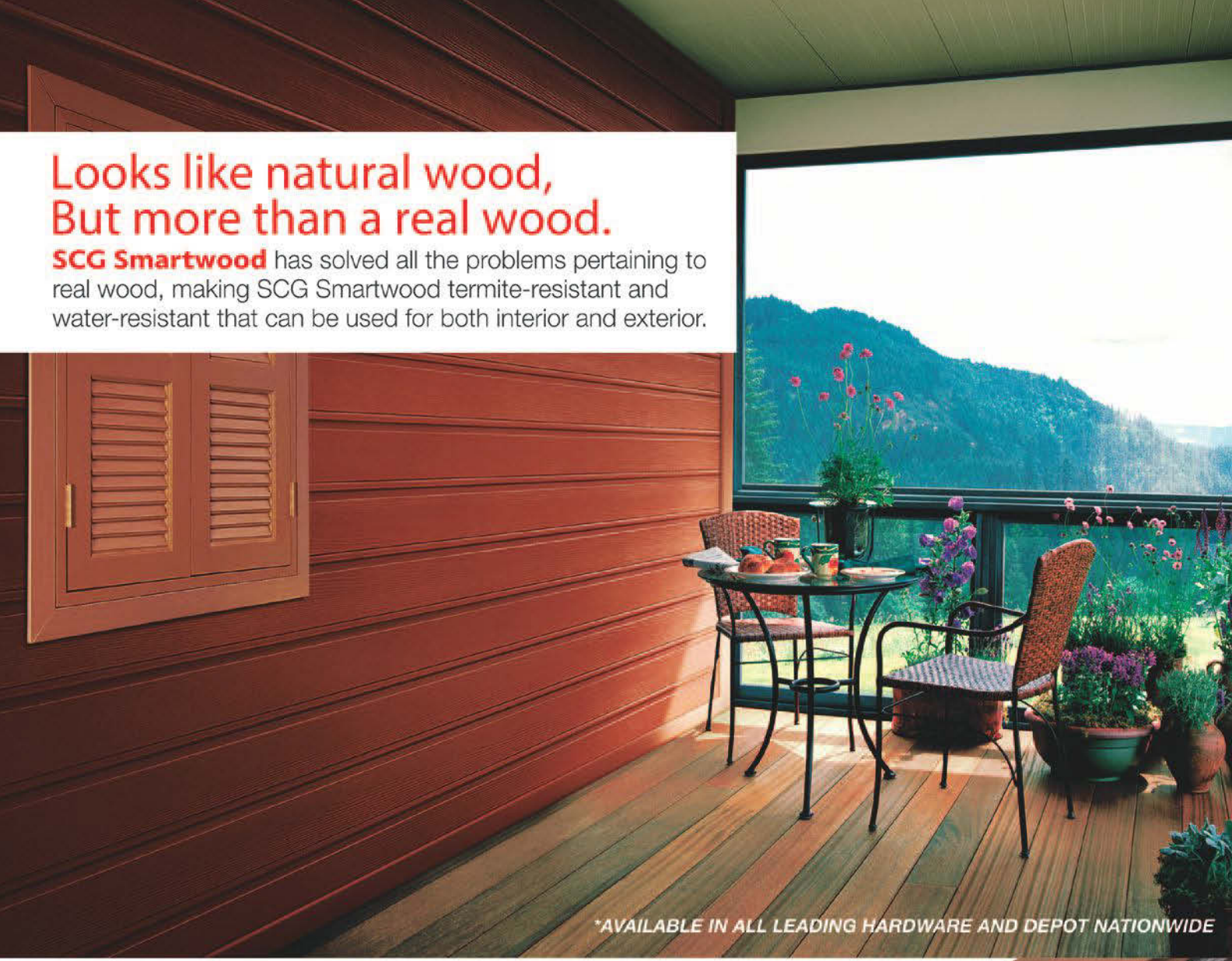


"I try to get pieces that my kids will also appreciate. I don't like things that are just there for aesthetic purposes," says Hindy Weber-Tantoco, fashion designer and mother of four who wants her children to be part of the house.


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